

Celebrating the Sabbath

At a recent weekday Lenten Mass, we heard this during the First Reading:

“If you hold back your foot on the Sabbath from following your own pursuits on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight; ... if you honor it by not following your ways, seeking your own interests, ... then you shall delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth.” Isaiah 58

The Book of Genesis tells us that God worked for six days straight to construct creation, *“and on the seventh day God rested from all the work He had been doing.”* He called the seventh day “holy,” and separated it as a different, or special, day.

When Moses came down the mountain with the Ten Commandments, the third commandment said: *“You shall keep holy the Lord’s Day.”* Why such emphasis on the Sabbath ?

Among other reasons, here are three:

1. As human beings we need a break from the everyday routine. Is there anyone who would forego their vacation time from their job ? The Lord offers us a vacation day each week—and He urges us to take it ! The Sabbath rest also challenges our modern compulsion to always “accomplish something.”
2. Each Sabbath gives us the chance to stop for a while and re-orient ourselves and to review the Lord’s place in our life. During those other six days, how often did we relate to the Lord ? Did the example of Jesus guide our actions during the past week ?
3. Each Sabbath is a reminder and a preview of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Sabbath, at the end of the week, reminds us that at the end of our lives we have God’s Kingdom to look forward to. One day our earthly concerns will be over. Observing the Sabbath by worshipping the Lord and ceasing from regular work is a way of expressing our faith in the world to come.

How to observe the Sabbath ? Of course first is to offer the Lord praise and thanks in the best possible way: the Mass. Then, by turning the rest of the day into a holiday. This might be different for each person: planning events as a family, meeting up with friends, using the time as a “day of rest” on the couch. The biggest temptation, I’m sure, is to do the shopping or the household chores that are before us. But in abstaining from these, as much as possible, we express to the Lord our faith in the Kingdom which He has prepared for us..

Let us take up the challenge to make the Sabbath different from the rest of the week. Let it be a day truly dedicated to the Lord, and a chance to rejoice in His many gifts. May our observance of the Sabbath open up other doors which reveal to us the deeper mysteries and wonders of life. Perhaps we can better appreciate the words of Jesus in Mark 2: 27: *“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”*

God bless you,
Father Wayne

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 7, 2010

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Robert Quinn at the
Request of his wife, Regina

TUESDAY, March 9

8:00AM – Robert Quinn
req. by his wife, Regina

SATURDAY, March 13

8:00AM – Don Schields
req. by Carol Lombaerde

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 14

8:00AM – Marcjanna Klimkiewicz
req. by Jane & Doug Sandberg

11:30AM – Madeline Templeton

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of David Cosman, Sr. at the
Request of Marion & Dave

MONDAY, March 8

9:00AM – Barbara K. Kientzler
req. by Charles Kientzler

TUESDAY, March 9

9:00AM – Alice Tallamy
req. by the Sarao Family

WEDNESDAY, March 10

9:00AM – David Cosman, Sr.
req. by Marion & Dave

THURSDAY, March 11

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 12

9:00AM – Special Intention
- Margaret & Archie Lamb
req. by Ann Lamb & Family

SATURDAY, VIGIL, March 13

5:30PM – Suzana Monteiro
req. by the Monteiro Family
- Intentions of Rita & Milan Straka
40th Anniversary
req. by their daughters

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 14

9:30AM – Myrtle Erickson, 10th Anniversary
req. by Bill & Marge Erickson

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,061.00 – Regular Collection – February 28, 2010
\$ 459.00 – Eastern Europe
\$1,150.00 – Resurrection
\$ 543.00 - Heat
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,750.00 – Regular Collection – March 1, 2009

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,131.00 – Regular Collection – February 28, 2010
\$ 499.00 – Eastern Europe
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$3,434.00 – Regular Collection – March 1, 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

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

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.

Greatest Gift – Almsgiving is so much more than giving money. During Lent, we can give of ourselves. And we can also honor Mary, who gave the world the greatest gift – God’s son and her son, Jesus. Mary’s “yes” to God to be the mother of Jesus is a reminder that we all have gifts to give – we just have to say “yes” too!

Share in Secret – Matthew 6:3-4 reminds us that we are not supposed to make a big deal about our giving. Seeking glory for these things defeats the purpose. Enlist your children’s enthusiasm for secrets by asking them to help you plan some silent sharing for those in need. Ideas might include:

- ❖ Mailing a gift, food, or gas card to a relative or friend who is struggling with bills.
- ❖ Giving up a Saturday afternoon to help someone with housework (or snow shoveling).
- ❖ Delivering dog food to an animal shelter.
- ❖ Leaving a meal on the doorstep of a friend or neighbor who has lost their job.

(Taken from Family Faith on the Go)

Catechist Meeting

All catechists are reminded about our meeting this week on Wednesday, March 10th at 11:00AM or 7:00PM. Please make every effort to attend the session which is most convenient for you.

Confirmation II Retreat

Next Sunday, March 14th, the seventeen teens from our parishes who will be soon receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, will be on a day of retreat at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton. Please keep these youth in your prayers as they spend the day reflecting and growing in the love and knowledge of Christ and as they continue their journey to be sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in April.

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.

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.

From the R.C.I.A.

The month of March is a very busy one for the Elect and Candidate receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. They are entering a period of purification and enlightenment, the time for more intense spiritual preparation, as the Elect and Candidate search their consciences and do personal penance.

On the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the Elect will be scrutinized and purified with the Rite of Scrutiny. These scrutinies “are meant to uncover, and then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the Elect; to bring out, and then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. The scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the Elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life.”

During this Season of Lent, as the whole parish community prepared for the paschal mystery, you are asked to remember in prayer our Elect—James Reid and William Paul and our Candidate—John Benson.

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.

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.

The next **coffee hour** at St. Thomas is scheduled for **Sunday, March 14th**.

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.

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.

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, 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.

Monday, March 8

11:00 a.m. REC Prayer Shawl Ministry

7:00 p.m. STC Reconciliation and Taizé Prayer

Tuesday, March 9

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

7:30 p.m. STC Finance Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 10

11:00 a.m. REC Catechists' Mtg.

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

7:00 a.m. REC Catechists' Mtg

Thursday, March 11

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

Friday, March 12

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 13

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

6:30 p.m. STC K of C St. Patrick's Dinner

Sunday, March 14, 2010

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Confirmation Retreat at Sacred Heart Center

Future Events

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. 22

"Evenings of Reconciliation" are being held in all the churches of the Diocese of Paterson during Lent. **Each Monday**, The Sacrament will be available from **7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.** in all parishes. With our situation here, the schedule will be as follows:

STC: March 8, March 22

SJC: March 1, March 15, April 1

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 from 5 – 7 p.m. courtesy of our Columbiettes, according to this revised schedule: Fri. Mar. 12 St. Thomas; Fri. Mar. 19 St. Thomas; Fri. Mar. 26 St. James. Come and join us !)

A Catholic Men's Conference 2010 is set for **this 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

Bishop's Annual Appeal for 2009. We received great news from the Diocese in their final report on the BAA for this past season. **Both** our parishes met and exceeded their goals ! This means that we won't have to make up a difference from the regular collection. Also, that we will receive back **one-half** the extra amount. Here are the details:

	Goal	Am't Pledged	Difference
St. James	\$ 7700.	\$ 8225.	\$ 525.
St. Thomas	\$ 8500.	\$ 11292.	\$ 2792.

Please help us by making sure that your pledge is fulfilled, to make these figures stick. Thanks to all who were able to help us meet our goals.

Blessed Jacinta Marto of Fatima: *"If only I could place in the heart of everyone the fire I have in my heart which makes me love the heart of Mary so much."*