

Do You Really Believe?

As the weeks of Lent move us closer to the climactic events of Holy Week which brought us our salvation, we emphasize the place that faith has in our daily lives. Here is a short story I came across. How far would your faith go ?

There once was a tightrope artist who had come to the city to perform. He had strung his tightrope from the top of one tall building to another. As the crowd gathered below, one could hear their excitement. As the tightrope artist finished his preparations he looked down to the crowd below and shouted: "How many of you believe that I can walk across this tightrope and back without falling ?" They all cried, "We believe !" He went across and came back.

Then he put on a blindfold and yelled to the crowd below: "How many of you believe I can go across with a blindfold on and come back again ?" They all cried, "We believe !" He went across and back.

Then he brought out a wheelbarrow. He yelled again to the crowd below: "How many believe I can go across and come back, blindfolded and pushing a wheelbarrow ?" They cried again, "We believe !"

Then, one by one, he asked them to get into the wheelbarrow. And one by one they began to make their excuses. Finally, one man did get into the wheelbarrow. He went across and he came back.

Who really believed ?

Jesus said: "By their fruits you will know them." Our faith becomes genuine only when tested. Do your daily actions mirror the faith you profess ?

God bless you,
Father Wayne

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 14, 2010

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the Intentions of Ann Lamb at the Request of Peggy & Richard

TUESDAY, March 16

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

SATURDAY, March 20

8:00AM – Terry Naletko
req. by Carol Lombaerde

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 21

8:00AM – Eleanor Semerano
req. by Josephine Yarosz

11:30AM – Father Gerald Lewis

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,785.00 – Regular Collection – March 7, 2010
\$ 530.00 – Resurrection Fund
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,330.00 – Regular Collection – March 8, 2009

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$3,847.00 – Regular Collection – March 7, 2010
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,713.00 – Regular Collection – March 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, Catherine Higgins, Sharon Hubbell, Peter Jaycay, Sharon Johnson, Chuck Lombaerde, Florence Majewski, Karen Morgan, Richard Nowicki, Joseph Peraino, Flo Puccio, Ruth Rogers, 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 Helen Winters

MONDAY, March 15

9:00AM – Intentions of Robert Lamb, Jr.
req. by his mother, Ann & sister, Peggy

TUESDAY, March 16

9:00AM – Victor DeGennaro
req. by Gerry Mahon

WEDNESDAY, March 17

9:00AM – William Ciesielski
req. by his wife, Agnes

THURSDAY, March 18

No Mass

FRIDAY, March 19

9:00AM – Helen Hanson
req. by her daughter, Lori Coss
- Anna Sciora
req. by her daughter, Josephine

SATURDAY, VIGIL, March 20

5:30PM – Marie Samuels
req. by Mary Flexer

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 21

9:30AM – Josef Szwajkiewicz
req. by John & Maria Babon
- Bernie Reich
req. by his family

THE LEGION OF MARY Annual ACIES function will take place **TODAY**, Sunday, March 14th at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 6 Sussex Avenue in Morristown at 3:00pm. Bishop Serratelli plans to preside. The ACIES is the solemn expression of union with and dependence on the Blessed Virgin Mary, where Legionaries assemble as a body and renew their consecration to Jesus through Mary. All Legionaries and their families throughout Morris, Passaic and Sussex Counties are invited to attend this beautiful ceremony and witness to their true devotion to Mary. A reception will follow in the church hall. For information – 973-538-0874 or email stmargaret07960@yahoo.com.

The **40 Days for Life** spring campaign continues 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Two Beloved Lenten Saints

This week, we take time during Lent to honor two great saints of our Church --- St. Patrick (March 17) and St. Joseph (March 19).

When St. Patrick was a teenager, he was captured by pirates and taken far away from his home. The pirates sold him to someone who put him to work taking care of sheep on a mountainside in Ireland. Patrick was very lonely. He hated being so far from home – but he didn't hate the Irish people. He felt sorry for them because at that time they had never even heard of God! Patrick spent six long years hoping and praying before he finally got a chance to escape and find a ship that would bring him back home. Although Patrick was happy to be reunited with his family, he couldn't forget the people in Ireland. So, after he became a priest, he went back to spend the rest of his life teaching the Irish about God. He used a plant that grew there – a shamrock – to help them understand the Blessed Trinity – Three Divine Persons in One God. Pray to St. Patrick to intercede for us to our Triune God when our faith is shaken when difficulties arise.

Most people spend their lives working for a living. Maybe that is why St. Joseph is so beloved by so many! He worked every day in a small carpenter shop – sawing wood, hammering nails, making chairs and tables and fixing things. He could have very easily become discouraged because he did not earn a lot of money. He could have complained because the work was hard and he probably worked many hours. But Joseph was a good man – he didn't complain – he accepted the plan God had for him! God asked Joseph to take care of Mary and Jesus, and so he did – quietly, gently, with patience and prayer. He became the patron saint of fathers and workers. Pray to St. Joseph to intercede especially for fathers who are looking for work at this time.

Confirmation II Retreat

Today, 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.

Reconciliation Service

Our 7th Grade Religious Education Class, under the guidance of their catechists Mike and Patti Bussow, will lead a Lenten Penance Service on Tuesday, March 23rd beginning at 7:00PM at St. Thomas the Apostle.

All 6th, 7th and 8th Grade parishioners are invited and encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this sacred season. Fr. Wayne and Fr. Jim Mulligan will be present, as well as the St. Thomas Choir to assist us in this celebration.

Fourth Week of Lent – The Prodigal Son

The story of the Prodigal Son helps us refocus on the meaning of Lent. This is a time to change our ways, to turn back to God our Father, and to appreciate and share the gifts we have received. As we begin the second half of our journey with Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, we remember that we are called to be stewards of what God has given us, and we connect our prayers and fasting with our giving.

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 prepares for the paschal mystery, you are asked to remember in prayer our Elect—James Reid and William Paul and our Candidate—John Benson.

Respect Life Reflection

“Anyone who wishes to follow Me must deny himself ... “Mt 16:24. Giving up something for Lent is a practice of self-denial saying no to ourselves and yes to God. Prayer – Lord, as I practice self-denial, I offer my sacrifices for children. May we say yes to God and the Unborn.

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 (March 26th at St. James)**. 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.

St. James Venison Dinner

We just wish to thank everyone who helped in any way to prepare for our dinner. Thanks to those who donated spirits and desserts. Thanks also to the Tri-State Naval Ship for the use of their hall. A very **SPECIAL THANKS** to **Bill Henn** and **Brian Olenick** for the wonderful dinner.

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. Take-outs will be ready at 5:00pm.

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.

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 14, 2010

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

9 a.m. --5:30 p.m. Confirmation Retreat at Sacred Heart Center

Monday, March 15

7:00 p.m. SJC Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday, March 16

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

Wednesday, March 17

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

Thursday, March 18

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

Friday, March 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, March 20

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

6:00 p.m. SJC Annual Corned Beef Dinner

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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.

1:30 p.m. STC Rehearsal for Stations of Cross

4:00 p.m. STC Confirmation Prep.

Future Events

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

Gr. 6, 7, 8 Lenten Reconciliation Service Tues.

Mar. 23 at St. Thomas, 7:00 p.m.

Confirmation Sat. April 10, at St. Joseph's, Newton

Holy Week & Easter Schedule. The most holy time of the Church year is soon to be upon us. For your information, here are the services and times:

Palm Sunday: March 28

Masses at regular times

Seder Supper Wed. Mar. 31, 6 p.m.

at Fr. Lewis Center

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper

St. Thomas, 7 p.m.

Good Friday Service St. James, 3 p.m.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross by

Confirmation Class at St. Thomas, 7:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil St. Thomas,

8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday : Masses at regular times

Seder Super: Understanding the Roots

of Our Mass. Our Knights of Columbus will

be hosting this traditional Seder Meal on **Wed.**

Mar. 31, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Fr. Lewis

Center. This meal will help us to see how Jesus'

Last Supper at Passover became our Sacred

Liturgy. Both educational and delicious, you

won't want to miss it. Tickets are \$ 10 for adults

and \$ 5 for children.

Good Friday Living Stations of the

Cross will be presented by our (soon to be

Confirmed) Confirmation Class. It will be held

at **St. Thomas, beginning at 7:30 p.m.** Join us

as our young people lead us in this prayerful

meditation on our Lord's death.

Evenings of Reconciliation continue 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:

SJC: 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 from 5 – 7 p.m.

courtesy of our Columbiettes, according to this

revised schedule: Fri. Mar. 19 St. Thomas;

Fri. Mar. 26 St. James. Come and join us !)