

*“See, I am doing something new !  
...Do you not perceive it ?”*

Isaiah 43: 19

It looks like God is at it again ! His first work was the creation of the world. In six days, as Genesis records it, God arranged the heavens, the earth and all living things.

Now He's at work again. This time it's a project of the spiritual world, not the physical world. This time it's taking a little longer—forty days. This Season of Lent is God's time of special creativity, as He works with all who would cooperate. He is ready and willing to create a new and improved version of you—if you will only work with His grace.

That is the whole purpose of this holy season: to allow the Lord to mold us and re-shape us into the most effective people we can be, the people He meant us to be: people of deep faith and committed service.

It means working to rid ourselves of all that would disappoint Him: our faults and bad habits and harmful ways of thinking, and to exchange them for those that would reflect Him. During Lent we are to work with the Lord to help us conquer pride and self-centeredness and duplicity and laziness and fear—all things that cripple us. We are called to take on the qualities of Jesus as we know Him from the Gospels. We are called to allow Jesus' values and priorities to become ours. In this way, we hope to hear someday the same words that Jesus heard from His Father at the Jordan: *“You are my beloved son (and daughter). With you I am well pleased.”* (Luke 3: 22)

The calendar tells us that we have f-i-n-a-l-l-y entered the season of spring. In the next weeks God will re-create the natural world as trees grow leaves, grass becomes green and flowers begin to bloom. As Lent progresses (the Old English word for “spring”) may our spirits reflect the same kind of new life. May we allow God's love to fill us, His voice to inspire our hearts, and His creative genius to make us into the people He knows we can be.

When God says “Look, I am doing something new !”: may He be referring to you.

God bless you,  
Father Wayne

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 21, 2010

### St. James the Greater

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

#### TUESDAY, March 23

8:00AM – Charlie Lakawicz  
req. by Carol Lombaerde

#### SATURDAY, March 27

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

#### PALM SUNDAY

##### March 28

8:00AM – Victor DeGennaro  
req. by Edna Schoepfer

11:30AM – Father James Gacquin

#### ST. JAMES THE GREATER

**\$1,409.00** – Regular Collection – March 14, 2010

**\$2,477.00** – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,713.00 – Regular Collection – March 15, 2009

#### ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

**\$2,155.00** – Regular Collection – March 14, 2010

**\$4,410.00** – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,482.00 – Regular Collection – March 15, 2009

### St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Josef Sz wajkiewicz at the  
Request of John & Maria Babon

#### MONDAY, March 22

9:00AM – Madeline Templeton  
req. by Frances Demalderis  
- Peggy Sweeney  
req. by the Barr Family

#### TUESDAY, March 23

9:00AM – Madeline Templeton  
req. by Steve & Aggie Shechner

#### WEDNESDAY, March 24

9:00AM – Owen Barr  
req. by his daughter

#### THURSDAY, March 25

No Mass

#### FRIDAY, March 26

9:00AM – Madeline Templeton  
req. by Bill & Marge Erickson

#### SATURDAY, VIGIL, March 27

5:30PM – Judy & Jerry Wainwright  
req. by the Wainwright Family

#### PALM SUNDAY

##### March 28

9:30AM – Martin Gorman, Ann Gorman &  
Mary Kerrigan  
req. by the Gorman Family

#### TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Bree Andrews, Vickie Bennett, Joseph Bruno, Eric Cerra,  
Gail Collis, 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*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

### **Spring Forward!**

Praise God – Spring has arrived! Spring is a time of renewal and new life. As the days become longer and warmer, here are a few ways to take your family’s “Spring fever temperature”:

- Think about whether your family misses the things they gave up for Lent and consider making those sacrifices permanent!
- Winter can make us inactive. As cold temperatures give way to warmer and longer days, get outside. Walk, play – together!
- Are you carrying grudges, anger or resentment around? Encourage forgiveness and peace in your family this spring. Attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation together!
- What are your family goals? Work together and be the kind of individuals and family you want to be!
- As Easter comes near, talk about your family’s distinct gifts and volunteer those special talents to your faith community!

Blessed Lent!

### **Reconciliation Service**

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

All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Sacramental Preparation Parents Formation**

A meeting will take place on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center for all parents who are presenting their child for the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist this year. Mr. Tom Brown, Director of Catechetics for the Diocese of Paterson, will be our presenter.

### **Seder Supper**

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Religious Education Class, along with the assistance of their catechists Cathy McNanna and Beverly Borrego, will participate in the annual Seder Supper hosted by our Knights of Columbus on Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. This will be a great opportunity for them to experience some Old Testament teachings, which they have studied this year. Students are asked to be at the Father Lewis Center by 5:30pm to help decorate and set up. They will be guests of the Knights, participate in the Seder and will be finished by 9:00pm. All students are encouraged to contribute and their families to attend also.

### **Respect Life Reflection**

“Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me.” Mt. 18:5 The Lord identifies Himself with the helplessness of a child who is first “received” by the parents. Prayer – Lord as You bring forth new life each day into our world, bring it forth also in our hearts enabling us to receive every life.

### **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.

**Operation Rice Bowl** is a project of **Catholic Relief Services**, which assists people affected by drought, sickness and malnutrition throughout the developing world. Pick up a rice bowl from church and fill it with spare change or larger donations. They will be collected after Easter.

**Our Baby Bottle Drive** is a way of assisting young mothers and their new-born in getting a better start in life. Donations assist the Good Counsel Homes, four of which are operating in New Jersey. Baby bottles are available in church. We ask you to fill them with change or check or dollar bills, and return the bottle on the Sunday after Easter. Fr. Benedict Groeschel and our parishioner Chris Bell are co-founders of Good Counsel Homes.

### **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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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 27<sup>th</sup>** 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 7<sup>th</sup>**, 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 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.

## **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 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.

### **Monday, March 22**

11:00 a.m. REC Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

### **Tuesday, March 23**

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

7:00 p.m. STC Reconciliation Service for  
Grades 6, 7, 8; Sponsored by Gr. 7

### **Wednesday, March 24**

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

### **Thursday, March 25**

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

### **Friday, March 26**

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. SJC Columbiettes' Soup Supper

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

### **Saturday, March 27**

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

10 a.m.—2 p.m. STC Mothers' Market

### **Sunday, March 28, 2010**

#### ***Palm Sunday***

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

4:00 p.m. STC Confirmation Prep.

**Confirmation.** Please keep in your prayers the 17 young people of our parish who will be receiving their Confirmation on **Sat. April 10.** Due to the Bishop's schedule, we must combine with Mt. Carmel in Swartswood and St. Joseph's in Newton. The Ceremony will be held at the **St. Joseph's Auditorium in Newton.** May the Holy Spirit come upon our young people and direct them always in His path.

**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:

**STC:** March 22 **SJC:** March 29

**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 will be offered from 5 – 7 p.m. courtesy of our Columbiettes, at St. James on Fri. Mar. 26. Come and join us !)*