

Nic at Night

During the Easter Season in the week-day readings, we meet a character named Nicodemus. He is found in the Gospel of John, chapter 3, and is described as a “ruler of the Jews.” Scholars say that he was a Pharisee, a member of the Jewish High Court (the Sanhedrin), and a rabbi or teacher of the Jewish faith. He possessed something very unique among the Pharisees—an open mind. He had heard Jesus speak and had seen some of His miracles, and was curious enough to try to learn more about Jesus. This in itself showed a humility that seemed to be rare among the self-assured Pharisees we find in the Gospels.

Nicodemus arranges to meet Jesus, and “... came to Him at night.” Obviously it would not have been good for a respected rabbi to be seen in open company with this unauthorized preacher. Yet Nicodemus was attracted to Jesus’ words, and wanted to know more.

From the conversation in chapter 3, Nicodemus seems more confused than ever. Jesus speaks of the need to be reborn, and Nicodemus asks: “How can a man be born again once he is old ?” The Lord then describes the Spirit as like the wind, and Nicodemus responds: “How can this happen ?”

We must give Nicodemus a lot of credit. He didn’t just walk away from Jesus, but sincerely tried to absorb what the Lord was saying. Perhaps he sensed in Jesus’ words an answer to all that the Old Testament prophets had suggested. He strains to comprehend.

Nicodemus might just be the Patron Saint of Adult Continuing Education. He’s a reminder that no one “knows it all.” With his curious mind, he demonstrates that, at any age, we can gain in knowledge.

May we take up Nicodemus’ example and always challenge ourselves to grow in the knowledge of our faith. With each new piece of the puzzle, our faith becomes clearer; it becomes more real and makes more sense to us.

An informed faith is a living faith. Let us make the commitment to use every opportunity to grow in the deeper knowledge of our faith.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 25, 2010

St. James the Greater

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

TUESDAY, April 27

8:00AM – No Mass

SATURDAY, May 1

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2

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

11:30AM – Walter & Norma Journey

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,953.00 – Regular Collection – April 18, 2010

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,866.00 – Regular Collection – April 19, 2009

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,924.00 – Regular Collection – April 18, 2010

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,830.00 – Regular Collection – April 19, 2009

Donation from Fratelli's for parishioner patrons -

\$104.82

St. Thomas the Apostle

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

MONDAY, April 26

9:00AM – Josephine Raffalle
req. by Frances Demalderis

TUESDAY, April 27

9:00AM – Edith Fevola
req. by Gerry Mahon

WEDNESDAY, April 28

9:00AM – Stasia Batko
req. by the Batko Family

THURSDAY, April 29

No Mass

FRIDAY, April 30

9:00AM – Father Gerald Lewis (6th anniversary)
req. by Mary Flexer

SATURDAY, VIGIL, May 1

5:30 PM – Irma Benson
req. by her grandson, John Benson & Family

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2

9:30AM – Madeline Templeton
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

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

16th Annual NJ Catholic Youth Rally – “Called to be Witnesses”

On Sunday, May 16th, a Catholic Youth Rally for those in Junior and Senior High School will take place at Great Adventure. The cost for the day will be \$45.00 and includes the Opening Ceremony at 9:30AM, all day rides, all you can eat buffet from Noon until 4:00PM, and Liturgy with Bishop Galante of the Diocese of Camden at 6:00PM. As we have done in the past, it may be possible for us to travel by bus with the youth of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Swartswood for a small additional fee. If you are interested, please let Mrs. Flexer know in person or by calling the Religious Education Office by Sunday, April 25th.

First Eucharist Retreat

The children of our parishes who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist will be on retreat today, April 25th, from 1:30PM until 4:00PM at Camp Auxilium. Please keep these young parishioners in your prayer today and all week as they get ready to receive Our Lord for the very first time.

First Eucharist Rehearsal

Rehearsal for the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist will take place on Friday, April 30th at 6:00PM for children who are parishioners of St. Thomas and at 7:30PM for children who are parishioners of St. James.

St. Zita: Holy Homemaker

St. Zita is the patron saint of domestic workers and homemakers. She was born in Italy in 1212 and as a very young girl was brought into service at the Fatinnelli household, where she lived out her days completing household tasks. It is said that Zita was criticized by many of her fellow workers because she was joyful, faithful and hardworking. She rose to pray hours before anyone else in the house and always remained respectful of her co-workers and employers, even though they treated her with much cruelty. Her humility eventually won out and she was placed in charge of all the affairs of the house. On April 27th – the feast of St. Zita – celebrate the homemaker in your family by giving them the day off from housework – and doing it for them!

Save the Date

Saturday, September 28, 2010 – Diocese of Paterson Pilgrimage to the Basilica in Washington, DC. More information to follow.

Operation Rice Bowl

Please return rice bowls to the church no later than **next** week, Sunday, May 2nd. Thank you for your generosity.

Respect Life Ministry

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

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. If you plan on donating a tray, please list your name and phone number on the appropriate sheet in the gathering space so we can have an idea of how many trays we will have. Please bring all trays to the church no later than, Sunday, May 2nd. Thank you.

BEYOND THE PARISH

New Jersey Right to Life Convention will be held at the New Brunswick Hilton on May 6th. Guest speakers will be **Glenn Beck** and **Lila Rose**. \$110.00 for members and \$140.00 for non-members. To reserve a seat, please call Rita Wenning at 973-948-3947.

St. Joseph Regional School is having a Carnival!

Games, Rides, Food & Talent Night! All proceeds benefit St. Joseph Regional School. It will take place at **Skyhawks Baseball Parking Lot** at Ross Corner. The dates are as follows: Wednesday, **May 12th** from 6PM – 10PM, Thursday, **May 13th** from 6PM – 10PM, Friday, **May 14th** from 6PM – 11PM and Saturday, **May 15th** from 2PM – 11PM. To purchase pre-sale tickets at a discount, please contact Deanna Sternefeld at 973-293-3509.

A weekend retreat for separated or divorced will be given on June 4th, 5th and 6th in Newton by a Franciscan Retreat Team. For more information, please call Father Tom Kelly, OFM at 973-985-9736 or Deacon Milt at 973-271-5097.

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, April 25, 2010

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

4:00 p.m. REC Confirmation Prep. Gr. 9

Monday, April 26.

9:00 a.m. STC Census Worker Training

Tuesday, April 27

9:00 a.m. STC Census Worker Training

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

7:00 p.m. STC K of C Officers' Mtg

Wednesday, April 28

9:00 a.m. STC Census Worker Training

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

Thursday, April 29

9:00 a.m. STC Census Worker Training

Friday, April 30

9:00 a.m. STC Census Worker Training

All day: STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

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

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

6:00 p.m. STC Practice for First Holy Com.

7:30 p.m. SJC Practice for First Holy Com.

Saturday, May 1

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

10:00 a.m. STC First Holy Communion

12 Noon SJC First Holy Communion

Sunday, May 2, 2010

8:00 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

9:30 a.m. STC May Crowning

11:30 a.m. SJC May Crowning

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

Future Events

Fri. May 7 STC 6:30 p.m. Tricky Tray

Diocesan May Crowning. On **Tuesday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m.** our Diocese will honor the Mother of God with a ceremonial crowning of the statue of Mary. Bishop Serratelli will lead a prayer service and preside over the annual May Crowning. This will be held at **St. Mary's Church on Route 46 in Denville, N. J.** All are most welcome to attend.

Prayer for Vocations. This Fourth Sunday of Easter—Good Shepherd Sunday—has been named since the days of Pope Paul VI as a **Day of Special Prayer for Vocations.**

A Diocesan Prayer for Vocations

Generous God, You show us the way that leads to eternal life. Through Baptism You have called us to proclaim the Good News.

Bless and strengthen those who have made a commitment of service in the Church. Guide and give wisdom to those discerning their vocation. Enrich our Church with dedicated married and single people, with deacons, priests, and with people in consecrated life.

Filled with Your Holy Spirit we ask this blessing that we, Your people, may follow Jesus, our Good Shepherd, now and always. Amen.

Mass for the Unborn. Bishop Serratelli invites all in the Diocese to join in this special Mass on **Saturday, May 8, 11 a.m. at St. Ann's Church in Parsippany.** During this Liturgy we will be praying for protection of the unborn and recognition of their God-given right to life. This Mass is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus of the Diocese. Refreshments will be served.

In Search of Young Adult Leadership.

The Young Adult Ministry at St. Paul Inside the Walls is searching for one or two adults, ages 21—35, to serve on a diocesan-wide initiative. These parish representatives are invited to attend an initial meeting on **Sunday, May 2nd.** An 11 a.m. Mass will be celebrated and the meeting will follow at the Center, located at **205 Madison Ave., Madison, N.J.** For questions, please contact Ginger Kamenitzer at gkamenitzer@paterson-diocese.org or call 973-464-0652.

In Concert: John Michael Talbot. One of Catholic music's pre-eminent and prolific composers will be offering concerts in our area. John Michael will be appearing at **St. Jude's Church, 7 Eisenhower Rd., Blairstown, N. J. on May 16, 17, 18, beginning at 7:30 p.m.** The concert is FREE, but a free-will offering will be taken up. Make the time for this special evening. You will recognize many of his songs. For more info call 908-362-6444.