

First Holy Communion

Yesterday was a very special day at both of our parishes. It was the day for which thirty-five of our children have been preparing for two years. It was the day that they received Our Lord for the first time in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The children were nervous but ready, dressed beautifully in their First Communion dresses and suits. Parents, grandparents and relatives attended, and were full of pride and joy for their young ones.

Our children did for the first time yesterday—what we hope will be a life-long practice: that of receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord at Sunday Mass. The Eucharist is Jesus' precious gift of Himself to us; it is His pledge to be with us and with the world until the end of time. He had told us: "*I will be with you always, until the end of the age.*" Each generation is called to hand down this truth to the next, by their words and example. We are called to witness to these children and help them to understand the supreme gift that the Eucharist is for us.

Each Mass actually brings us back to the Last Supper table. We are actually seated among the original disciples as we hear the priest pronounce the words of consecration. We experience nothing less than those first apostles, as we partake of the Body and Blood of the Lord.

But, clearly, we are able to understand more than they did at the Last Supper. For those first apostles, the words "This is My Body .. this is My Blood" surely caught them by surprise. They thought that they were gathered for the yearly Passover Meal. But Jesus transforms this meal by initiating a New Covenant. The Old Covenant, celebrated each Passover, assured the Jewish people of God's love, demonstrated by saving them from the Egyptians, through the Red Sea, long ago. Jesus initiates ".. a new and everlasting covenant" which will save His followers from sin and death. It will come at the cost of His own death on the cross.

The apostles only came to understand all of this later, as they reflected upon Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. We today, 2000 years later, understand better all that the Eucharist—Jesus' Body and Blood—means for us. It is the greatest demonstration of Jesus' love for us; it is the promise of His companionship and guidance throughout life; it is the pledge that He will bring us to resurrection and eternal life in His Kingdom of heaven.

All of this is too much for the children to understand right now. They're only seven or eight years old. It is we their elders--and you their families--who must continue to help them grow in faith and knowledge.

May the Lord help you to continue what you have begun for your children. May we, their Christian community, always be examples of faith for them to follow. Together, may we enable our Catholic faith to flourish and be an assurance of God's love for all the generations still to come.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2010

St. James the Greater

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

TUESDAY, May 4

8:00AM – Nicholas & Maria Henn
req. by Patricia Long

SATURDAY, May 8

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9

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

11:30AM – Lottie Henn
req. by her children

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,120.00 – Regular Collection – April 25, 2010
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$ 349.00 – Campaign for Human Development
\$1,229.00 – Regular Collection – April 29, 2009

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$3,082.00 – Regular Collection – April 25, 2010
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$ 597.00 – Campaign for Human Development
\$2,904.00 – Regular Collection – April 29, 2009

St. Thomas the Apostle

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

MONDAY, May 3

9:00AM – Father James Gacquin

TUESDAY, May 4

9:00AM – Joan Spoolstra
req. by Religious Education Families

WEDNESDAY, May 5

9:00AM – Father Gerald Lewis

THURSDAY, May 6

No Mass

FRIDAY, May 7

9:00AM – Sal Siracusano

SATURDAY, VIGIL, May 8

5:30 PM – Russell B. Spinks
req. by his Mother & Father
- Florence Croasdale
req. by her sister, Deloris

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9

9:30AM – Jim Mahon
req. by his wife, Gerry & 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, Lugi Osso, 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

The Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist

It is with great love and joy that we welcome the following young children of our parishes to the Table of the Lord:

Joseph Bergman, Katarina Bisl, Derek Gamutan, Saige Bruzard-Holstein, Jessica Koba, Joseph Koba, Garrett Lapina, Jack Marion, Denali Nebel, Anthony Savarese and Mark Sternefeld from St. James and Nikki Delgado, Jenna Dispenziere, Benjamin Dispoto, Natalie Dube, Zachary Ellicott, Michael Gaffney, Katlin Gorman, Sean Kealy, Steven Lawrence, Allison Lombardi, Jackson Melnick, Randi Mae Miley, Kelly Murphy, Bridget O'Keefe, Charlotte Pagliaro, Nicholas Rittweger, Sierra Rutnik, Kelly Rymaniak, Jeremy Schear, John Seibert, Kiara Shadwell, Brady Sullivan, Emilia DeGroat-VanderPloog, Ryan Van Wingerden and Matthew Voss from St. Thomas.

Special congratulations to their families, their catechists, Patrice Kealy and Anne Voss and their catechist aides Hannah Blevins and Lauren Seibert who assisted them on this wonderful part of their faith journey.

World Youth Day Thank You

Thank you to all who rented table space, had your car washed, or came out to shop at our WYD Car Wash and Yard Sale last Saturday. Because of your generosity, we profited \$672.00.

Special thanks to Father Wayne, Deacon Wayne, the Knights of Columbus and the Murphy family who washed cars non-stop for 5 hours! Also to the many parishioners who donated items to be sold and to Gerry Mahon for storing the remaining items until our next sale. We could not have been this successful without the support of each of you!

On This Day We Celebrate: Finding the Holy Cross

Traditionally, on May 3rd, we honor St. Helena's discovery of the true cross of Jesus Christ. Make sure you have a crucifix prominently displayed in your home.

From the R.C.I.A.

Happy Easter!! At the Easter Vigil we welcomed and were fully Initiated: **James Drysdale Reed, II, William Randolph Paul, Jr. and Melissa Leigh Fiore.**

Also at the Easter Vigil **John Bertil Benson, III** was welcomed into Full Communion into the Roman Catholic Church.

The R.C.I.A. continues to meet after the 9:30am Mass at St. Thomas Church and the next meeting date is May 2nd on the Fifth Sunday of Easter.

Over the coming summer prayerfully consider volunteering your time with the R.C.I.A. process. If you are faith-filled and a willing sharer you have all that is necessary to be part of the R.C.I.A. process. Please contact me, Patricia Hope, at 973-293-3753 if you have any questions concerning the R.C.I.A. process. May your Easter Season be truly blessed!

Save the Date

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

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. If anyone would like to bake a cake or cookies for the tricky tray, please contact Deirdre at the above number. Thank you.

BEYOND THE PARISH

Sacred Heart Spirituality Center will be holding its monthly First Thursday Retreat on May 6th from 9:00am to 2:00pm. The theme is: "Be It Done to Me According to Your Word" and will focus on Mary as the first and most faithful disciple of Jesus.

The schedule includes a talk, the opportunity for Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass and lunch. For more information kindly call Sacred Heart Center at 973-383-2620. No prior registration is necessary.

A Women's Retreat will take place the weekend of June 11-13. The theme is "Gifted and Sent". Please call 973-383-2620 or e-mail shcenter@nac.net for further information or to request a registration form.

Interested in a Summer Camping Experience?

Consider Camp Auxilium for Girls (age 5-14) and for Boys (age 5-12). For brochures or more information, phone 973-383-2621 or go to www.campauxilium.org.

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, 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

Monday, May 3.

11:00 a.m. REC Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, May 4

10:00 a.m. STC Reflectons on Readings

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

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

Wednesday, May 5

9:30 a.m. STC Tricky Tray set up

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

7:00 p.m. REC Catechists' Mtg

Thursday, May 6

9:30 a.m. STC Tricky Tray set up

Friday, May 7

All day: STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

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

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

6:30 p.m. STC Tricky Tray Night

Saturday, May 8

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

Sunday, May 9, 2010

Mothers' Day

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

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

Future Events

Sat. May 15 SJC & STC Clean up / Fix up Day

Sharing Our Faith in the Public Square.

The Bishops of New Jersey are making it easier to have your voice heard on issues that affect our Catholic values. Today's insert explains how you can receive the latest accurate information, and get involved in speaking up on Catholic concerns. St. Paul in his day used the public square to proclaim the Good News about Jesus. Today's electronic media are the 21st century equivalent, available to all.

New Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors. Is the Lord calling you to deeper involvement in your faith? Please consider joining the **Ministry of the Eucharist** or the **Ministry of the Word**. More info to follow.

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. This will be held at **St. Mary's Church on Route 46 in Denville, N. J.** All are most welcome to attend.

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 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.

Food Pantry Update. Our food pantry is currently low on the following items: cereal, mayonnaise, pancake syrup, peanut butter. If you can donate something, we'd appreciate the help. ShopRite Gift Cards in the amount of \$ 10 would also be a great help. Thanks.

National Day of Prayer: Thurs. May 6

Isn't it outrageous that a U.S. district judge in Wisconsin has tried to declare the **National Day of Prayer** as unconstitutional? It doesn't establish any particular religion, and if anything, our nation at present needs prayer more than ever. But unfortunately this is another sad sign of our times.

People of faith must counter these threats to the free practice of religion. The National Day of Prayer was established in 1952 by President Truman as a way of bringing people of faith together to pray for God's blessings upon our land. Please join with fellow believers at the **main Prayer Service for Sussex County on Thurs. May 6th.** It will be held in front of the **Sears store on Route 206 in the Hampton Shopping Plaza.** The Service begins at 7 p.m.