

## Meet an Ancestor in Faith

Barnabas is one of those early members of the Church, whom we get to know in the *Acts of the Apostles*. He slips in and out of the pages of Acts—first as a new convert, eventually becoming a trusted companion of Saint Paul.

We first meet him as ‘Joseph’ in Chapter 4 of Acts, as he becomes baptized and converted. He is described as a Levite, i.e. of the Jewish priestly class, from the island of Cyprus, and evidently is quite wealthy. The first words about him say that as he joins the community of believers, he sells a farm that he owned and laid the proceeds at the feet of the disciples, to be used as they saw fit for the good of the community.

He goes on to become a pillar of the community, being re-named Barnabas, “Son of Encouragement.” The early Church began to meet persecution for its faith in Jesus. Barnabas was one to encourage the members to remain firm in their faith.

Barnabas has an instrumental role in the conversion and acceptance of Saint Paul. Paul, as you know, was the fiercest persecutor of the new faith. He was determined to stamp out this faith and to send every believer to prison. Then he had his famous conversion experience on the road to Damascus. After Paul is struck blind and led to the city by companions, it is Barnabas who recognizes the sincerity of Paul’s conversion. It is Barnabas who persuades the others to accept and trust that Paul is a reformed man. Barnabas is the first to welcome Paul as a new brother in faith. As Barnabas “shows Paul the ropes,” he reconciles Paul to the Christian community (chap. 9).

Later, when a delegation from the main community in Jerusalem was needed to contact the newer community in Antioch—it was Barnabas who was called upon to head the delegation (chap. 11).

As Paul grows in knowledge of the faith, it is Paul and Barnabas who discern a call to take the Good News to other places (chap. 13). This is the beginning of Paul and Barnabas’ careers as missionaries. Paul and Barnabas have many experiences together as they preach about Jesus as Savior. In some cities they are welcomed, in one city they are mistaken for gods themselves, in another city they are stoned (chap. 14). Yet they relentlessly continue their mission of preaching.

Paul and Barnabas eventually part company over an argument about the qualifications of another disciple-missionary. Barnabas and the new disciple, John Mark (his cousin) go in one direction; Paul and another disciple, Silas, go in another (chap. 15).

We don’t hear from Barnabas again. But we can assume that he continued to preach the name of Jesus, and brought many to the faith.

Barnabas, the Son of Encouragement, can encourage us today by the example of his firm and unshakeable faith. He can also encourage us—as can all the saints—from his place in heaven—by his intercession for all believers who continue to spread the Good News of Jesus.

God bless you,  
Father Wayne

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 16, 2010

### St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Thomas McCarthy at the  
Request of the Ricciardi Family

#### TUESDAY, May 18

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

#### SATURDAY, May 22

8:00 AM – John Sakach  
req. by Carol Lombaerde

#### PENTECOST SUNDAY

##### May 23

8:00AM – Gerard Bossé  
req. by Carol Lombaerde

11:30AM – Bob Schweer

#### ST. JAMES THE GREATER

**\$1,640.00** – Regular Collection – May 9, 2010

**\$2,477.00** – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,016.00 – Regular Collection – May 10, 2009

#### ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

**\$3,307.00** – Regular Collection – May 9, 2010

**\$4,410.00** – Weekly Budget Need

\$3,003.00 – Regular Collection – May 10, 2009

### St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Bernie Reich at the  
Request of his wife, Grace

#### MONDAY, May 17

9:00AM – Margaret Healy  
req. by her Daughter & Granddaughter  
- Robert Forte  
req. by his Godmother

#### TUESDAY, May 18

9:00AM – Josephine Raffalle  
req. by Edna Schoepfer

#### WEDNESDAY, May 19

9:00AM – Leo P. Pagiusco & Stephen Pagiusco  
req. by Ken & Barbara Guinn

#### THURSDAY, May 20

No Mass

#### FRIDAY, May 21

9:00AM – Gerry Bossé  
For comfort & peace  
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer

#### SATURDAY, VIGIL, May 22

5:30 PM – Gerard Bossé  
req. by Grace Reich

#### PENTECOST SUNDAY

##### May 23

9:30AM – Gerard Bossé  
req. by Mary Cunico & 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 Seventh Sunday of Easter**

In today's Gospel (John 17:20-26) we heard Jesus' prayer to His Father during the Last Supper. Jesus prays that all His followers are one. He also prays that all people show their unity by loving each other as God loves them.

What one person can we reach out to this week and include in "our circle"? Someone who is lonely? Grieving? Left out? Unemployed or homeless? Who can we include in our dinnertime or bedtime prayers? Those who are sick or dying? Those who are far from home protecting our freedom? Those who we do not even know, but are part of our human family?

### **Health Ministry is Coming!**

How do you feel? Do you have some basic questions regarding health issues? If so, you may be interested in this new ministry beginning in our parishes. Look for the Health Survey to be distributed in the very near future. Your input will be very important to us as we begin this new ministry. Please take the time to fill out the survey and return it.

### **Respect Life Reflections**

"The blind man said to Him, 'Rabbi, let me receive my sight.'" Mk 10:51. People change when they see abortion. One wrote, "I was horrified by the pictures of those tiny innocents murdered. I had no idea the practice was so brutal." **Prayer** – Lord give your people courage to face the evils around us so that we may have greater strength to fight them in Your Name.

**MUSICIANS WANTED** to join us on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 – 6:00PM for an afternoon of jamming' in the Father Lewis Center. Acoustic Bluegrass & Country music.

### **ST. THOMAS TRICKY TRAY**

Thank you to all the ladies on the tricky Tray Committee; Marion, Grace, Fran, Mary, Gerry, Marie, Nancy, Marina and Cyndi. Thank you to all those who baked for the affair as well as those who worked in the kitchen, the runners, the watchers and the caller. Special thanks to all those individuals who made trays or gave donations, as well as the many companies who supported us. Thank you also to Cindy Reed who stepped in at the last minute to sell Specials. Most of all, thank you Father Wayne for supporting our efforts. Without you, there would be no tricky tray. Please forgive me if I inadvertently left anyone out. Deidre Burgos, Chairperson

### **Save the Date**

Saturday, September 18, 2010 – Diocese of Paterson Pilgrimage to the Basilica in Washington, DC. More information to follow.

## **BEYOND THE PARISH**

Pope John XXIII Regional High School will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Alumni Golf Outing on Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at Lake Mohawk Golf Club. Proceeds will benefit the Angels Club and the P.J. Educational Foundation Endowment, Inc. Please refer to [www.popejohn.org](http://www.popejohn.org) home page or contact Julia Campbell at 973-729-6125 X258 for further details on how you can become a sponsor, volunteer, golfer or diner.

**A weekend retreat for separated or divorced** will be given on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 16, 2010

9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour & Baby Shower  
after Mass

11:30 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour & Baby Shower  
after Mass

3:00 p.m. STC Columbiettes' Mtg

### Monday, May 17

11:00 a.m. REC Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Tuesday, May 18

10:00 a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

### Wednesday, May 19

### Thursday, May 20

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

### Friday, May 21

All day: STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

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

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

### Saturday, May 22

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

5:30 p.m. STC Pot Luck Dinner after Mass

### Sunday, May 23, 2010

#### *Feast of Pentecost*

2:00 p.m. STC Music Group

### Future Events

9:00 a.m. STC May 31 Memorial Day Mass

**Be Brave.** *The Acts of the Apostles*, which we read throughout the Easter season, is a riveting account of faith, courage, healings, conversions, and a miraculous escape from prison. It is the story of how God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, intervened in the lives of Jesus' disciples to ensure the spread of the Word throughout the world. The courage of the first followers of Jesus is truly inspirational. Take some time to read *Acts*. Then consider: "In what ways is God inviting me to live more courageously? What is keeping me from responding to that invitation?"

--from *Prepare the Word*, April, 2010

**Congratulations** to all who worked on the recent **Tricky Tray Night at St. Thomas**. Their tireless efforts raised over \$ 4,000 for the parish. Thanks to all who donated prizes, and to all who attended.

**Changes in the Mass.** This is a first alert that sometime soon, there will be some minor changes in our Sunday Mass. They will basically be changes to the translation of the liturgical texts --the prayers that the priest says--as well as some minor changes in the dialogue between the priest and the people. It is an effort to comply more accurately with the Latin original texts. This was just announced last week, and you will be hearing more of this in the months to come. Change is good—I guess—so stay tuned.

**New Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers.** 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, or Altar Service** as a way of helping the Lord and your church. Please speak to Fr. Wayne, Deacon Wayne, Mary Flexer, Pat Hope, or call the office

**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.

**Diocesan Pentecost Day Celebration.** Bishop Serratelli invites you to join with the entire Diocese in a celebration of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit's ability to bring all nations into one. There will be testimonies, music and great blessings. Mass with Bishop will be at 4:00 p.m. The location is Paterson Catholic High School, Paterson. The hours are 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. For more info, call 973-777-8818 (Multi cultural Office.)