

The Spirit's Gift of Reverence

This week-end we celebrate the climax of the Easter Season. As Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised not to leave His apostles alone. He would send them an Advocate: a Helper and Guide. Today we celebrate the powerful way in which that Helper came—as the Holy Spirit—the very same Spirit that animated Jesus. As the Spirit came to dwell within them, they became ‘other Christs;’ they spent their lives continuing the saving work that Jesus had begun.

The Spirit enabled them to act in Jesus' name by providing them with the tools or gifts they needed to be effective in building the Church. Those tools, or gifts, are beautifully described in the prayer spoken over young people by the bishop just before their Confirmation. The prayer calls down the Holy Spirit upon the candidates for Confirmation with these beautiful words:

*All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
By water and the Holy Spirit
You freed your sons and daughters from sin
And gave them new life.
Send your Holy Spirit upon them
To be their Helper and Guide.
Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of right judgment and courage,
The spirit of knowledge and reverence.
Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Let us in the next year pay special attention to the **Gift of Reverence**. The older version of the gifts listed them as ‘Piety’ and ‘Fear of the Lord.’ This newer version speaks more accurately of ‘reverence’ and ‘the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.’

May we open our eyes to see the wonder of God's presence all around us. Here in Sussex County we are surrounded by the beauty of nature. It speaks eloquently of God's very presence. We should be even more in awe of the Lord's presence to us in church. May we enter our church each week-end realizing that here the Lord offers His very self to us in the Blessed Sacrament. May the gift of awe help us to appreciate God's incredible love for us in making Himself so available to us in the Eucharist. May we always respond with the deepest reverence and respect.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 23, 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 25

8:00AM – Gerard Bossé
req. by Lyse & Wayne vonDoehren

SATURDAY, May 29

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

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

May 30

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

11:30AM – Father John Tully

St. Thomas the Apostle

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

MONDAY, May 24

9:00AM – Joseph Ordini
req. by Bentley Assisted Living
- Intentions of Cordelia Cafone
96th Birthday Celebration

TUESDAY, May 25

9:00AM – Jerry Demalderis
req. by his wife, Frances & Family

WEDNESDAY, May 26

9:00AM – Leo P. Pagiusco & Stephen Pagiusco
req. by his wife and mother, Lorraine

THURSDAY, May 27

No Mass

FRIDAY, May 28

9:00AM – Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY, VIGIL, May 29

5:30 PM – Jim Mahon
req. by the Wainwright Family

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

May 30

9:30AM – Lillian Koykas
req. by Shirley Strong & Family

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,325.00 – Regular Collection – May 16, 2010
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,190.00 – Regular Collection – May 17, 2009

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,429.00 – Regular Collection – May 16, 2010
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,525.00 – Regular Collection – May 17, 2009

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, Pearle Kohol, Chuck Lombaerde, Florence Majewski, Karen Morgan, Richard Nowicki, Luigi 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

Pentecost Sunday

We celebrate Pentecost as both the end of the great seven-week feast of Easter and as the beginning of the Church. Today, the Church celebrates, with great joy, the gift of the Holy Spirit. We remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples, and we rejoice because the Holy Spirit continues to fill our hearts today.

After the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples, they immediately responded to the impulses of the Spirit. They left the upper room and went into the world and began the important work of evangelization – proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ!

In their document *Go and Make Disciples*, the United States Catholic bishops recognize two main elements that represent evangelization: witness and sharing. We can witness to our faith the very same way the first disciples did – by living it out each day through acts of generosity, compassion, justice and understanding. We can share our faith by making prayer a part of our daily lives, by participating in the sacramental life of the Church and by telling others about all the wonderful things that Christ has done for us!

We may not experience the coming of the Holy Spirit in the same manner as the first disciples did, but when we open our heart and mind to the working of the Spirit, we too can share the Good News of Jesus Christ – news that is just too good to keep to ourselves!

Respect Life Reflections

“Let everyone submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which derives from God.” Rom 13:1. Abortion supporters say government has no business in our homes. Laws prohibit theft, child abuse or murder in homes. Abortions occur in public facilities. Government has a duty to stop violence there. **Prayer** – Lord, I thank You for those who serve You in public office. Give them wisdom to enact laws that preserve the rights of ALL.

MUSICIANS WANTED to join us **TODAY** Sunday, May 23rd from 2:00PM – 6:00PM for an afternoon of ‘jamming’ in the Father Lewis Center. Acoustic Bluegrass & Country music.

Paterson Diocesan Pilgrimage

Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli has designated **Saturday, September 18, 2010** as the day for our Paterson Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Patroness.

He will lead this Pilgrimage of Faith and celebrate the Mass of Thanksgiving; he hopes we will have 4,000 people coming. Price for the 1 – day bus pilgrimage is \$40.00, leaving between 6 and 7 AM and returning around 10 PM. An optional overnight Pilgrimage is outlined on the blue flyers and posters. Please call our Parish Coordinator: St. James, Carol Lombaerde at 973-948-2285 and St. Thomas, Diana Rimshnick at 973-948-7601 for registration or information.

Blood Drive

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Blood Drive in the Father Lewis Center on **Sunday, May 30th** from 8:00AM to 1:30PM. Blood supplies have been below required levels and donations are greatly appreciated. Please sign up to donate and help save lives!

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.

BEYOND THE PARISH

St. Joseph Regional School in Newton is hosting a School Open House on Wednesday, May 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and also from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to visit and tour our classrooms and view the plans for our new state-of-the-art media center. Refreshments will be served. Come see the dividends of a Catholic education. For more information, please feel free to contact Tina Dykstra at 973-271-0355 or visit the school’s website at www.StJosephRegionalSchool.org.

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 23, 2010

Feast of Pentecost

2:00 p.m. STC Music Group

Monday, May 24.

7:00 p.m. REC Health Ministry Mtg.

Tuesday, May 25

10:00 a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

Wednesday, May 26

Thursday, May 27

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

Friday, May 28

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 29

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

Sunday, May 30, 2010

8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. STC K of C Blood Drive

Future Events

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

Next Year's Parish Calendar. All leaders of parish groups should have received, either in person or by mail, a letter asking for the dates you would like to schedule events during the next year. We'd ask you to give us your list of dates by Tues. June 15. Then on Tues. June 29th, at one big meeting, we will get together and finalize our Parish Calendar and iron out any conflicts. (But of course there won't be any, right ?)

"Now what the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is in the Body of Christ, the Church. The Holy Spirit dies in the whole Church what the soul does in all the members of a single body."

St. Augustine (354—430)

Congratulations ! to **Carol Lombaerde** and **Josephine Yarosz** who received the 'Vivere Christus Est' Award ('to live is Christ') from Bishop Serratelli last Sunday at St. John's Cathedral in Paterson. They received this award along with members of each parish of our Diocese. It is meant to thank parishioners who have given long-time service to their local Church. Our thanks to Carol and Josephine, and to all who give so freely of their time and talents to make our parishes the special places they are.

Congratulations also to **Keaton Douglas**, parishioner and member of the choir at St. Thomas. She has recently written and performed a beautiful Pro-Life song and video entitled: "*Take My Hand.*" It is a very moving anthem, written from the perspective of an unborn child, imploring its young, unwed mother to give her a chance at life. It is a joyful tribute to the beauty of life and to those who work to preserve it. The video and song was previewed at the Baby Shower--Coffee Hour at St. Thomas last week, and is available on Amazon.com and on iTunes by searching "Keaton Douglas". "*Take My Hand*" is also available for viewing on YouTube.com. Proceeds of all sales will go to benefit N.J. Right To Life.

Diocesan Pentecost Day Celebration today. 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.**

Memorial Day had its beginnings after the Civil War to honor soldiers of both sides who died in battle. It was a way of healing our nation after that terrible conflict. We continue the tradition of honoring those who have died in our nation's wars, and praying for our country as we gather on Monday for a special Memorial Day Mass. It will be held at **St. Thomas at 9 a.m.** Please join us.

Weekend Retreat: Separated / Divorced.

A week-end Retreat will be offered on June 4, 5, 6 in Newton by a Franciscan retreat team. For more info, call Fr. Tom Kelly, OFM (973-985-9736 or Deacon Milt (973-271-5097.))