

Saint Thomas Does Us a Favor

This Saturday, July 3rd, celebrates the **Feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle**. As one of our patron saints, we daily seek his intercession.

And as with all the saints, he certainly doesn't take the place of God in our worship. Rather, the saints point us in the direction of the Lord by their holy lives, and serve to inspire us by their unique personal examples.

St. Thomas teaches us an important lesson: that it's O.K. to doubt, *as long as we pursue that doubt and work to resolve it*. A doubt is often due to a lack of knowledge, or to a faulty perspective. In matters of faith, we are morally bound to pursue the matter—not to just let it fester. We are called to seek out further information so that we can come to some satisfactory conclusion. Doubts, in fact, should serve as stepping-stones to deeper faith.

In St. Thomas' case, it is shocking that an original apostle of Jesus could express his doubt in the clear and cold words of John 20: 25 *“Unless I see the marks of the nails in his hands ... I will not believe.”* As we see, he remains with the other apostles, and a week later he is given the proof he needed. And he shows the deepest humility as his doubts melt away and he admits his conversion to faith in these most dramatic words: *“My Lord and my God.”* (v. 28)

With his testimony, our Saint Thomas becomes the best witness to our Lord's Resurrection. The skeptic Thomas became thoroughly convinced of Jesus' resurrected life, and his complete change of heart can be used to strengthen our own faith.

Let St. Thomas' way of dealing with doubt be a guide for us. With the Holy Spirit, the “Spirit of Truth,” to help us, may we always find access to the wisdom of God Himself. May St. Thomas assist us and point the way to discovering all truth.

God bless you and
Happy Feast Day,
Father Wayne

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

June 27, 2010

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the Intentions of Ann Lamb on her 95th Birthday at the Request of Her Children

TUESDAY, June 29

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

SATURDAY, July 3

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 4

8:00AM – Lorraine Gross
req. by Art & Maria Henn

11:30AM – Genevieve Arnault

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,117.00 – Regular Collection – June 20, 2010
\$ 251.00 – South American & Latin American Missions
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,110.00 – Regular Collection – June 21, 2009

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,301.00 – Regular Collection – June 20, 2010
\$ 426.00 – South American & Latin American Missions
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,822.00 – Regular Collection – June 21, 2009

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in Memory of Robert Kurkewicz at the Request of the Sarao Family

MONDAY, June 28

9:00AM – Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, June 29

9:00AM – Elizabeth Mahoney
req. by the Family

WEDNESDAY, June 30

9:00AM – Timothy Yarosz
req. by his Mother

THURSDAY, July 1

No Mass

FRIDAY, July 2

9:00AM – Bernie Reich
req. by his wife, Grace & Family

SATURDAY, VIGIL, July 3

5:30 PM – People of the Parish
- Edna Cosman
req. by Dave & Marion

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 4

9:30AM – People of the Parish
- Rob Breen, Luke Politore & Daniel Kelly
req. by Edna Schoepfer

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Bree Andrews, Mary Bell, 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, Lugi Osso, Flo Puccio, Ruth Rogers, Evelyn Schweer, Deena Slain, Bill Sousa, Lilia Vazquez, 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

Registrations for 2010/2011 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for parishioners in grades 2 through 8 have been mailed out. Please return all re-registrations by July 1st to avoid the late fee. Registration for the Confirmation Preparation Program was mailed out this week. Please return all registrations by July 15th to avoid the late fee.

Parents of children entering first grade, new children to the parish or children enrolled in Catholic school or home school who will be preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist or Confirmation must call the Religious Education Office to register. To enroll your child(ren) in the parish program, you must be a registered and participating member of the parish.

Happy Graduation

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” ~ Jeremiah 29.11

Congratulations to all who have recently graduated from Elementary School, High School, College or Graduate School. May you know of the prayers and best wishes of many who are praying for you to continue to seek the help of God as you move to different schools or career opportunities. May you always call on the Holy Spirit for His gifts to help you make decisions which will always give glory, honor and praise to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Respect Life Reflections

“They lead my people astray, saying ‘Peace’ when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash.” Ezek 13:10. Late term abortionist George Tiller tells couples who come to him to abort, “The hard part is saying goodbye to the hopes, dreams and relationships that you have with your baby”. **Prayer** – Lord, have mercy. Move to repentance those who misuse the faith of others to justify wrongdoing and heal those who turn to You.

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, Newton.

St. Thomas Feast Day Picnic

On Saturday, **July 3rd**, we will be holding our annual St. Thomas Feast Day Picnic from 2:00PM until 5:00PM on the St. Thomas grounds. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a covered dish. Sign up sheet is in the gathering space. Please sign up so we know how many to plan for.

We will also be pulling the St. Thomas Feast Day 50/50 raffle ticket. We are currently selling the 50/50 raffle tickets. The tickets are \$20.00 and are available after Masses, in the parish office or by calling Deirdre at 973-948-6092. The prizes will be as follows: 1st – 30%, 2nd – 10%, 3rd – 5% and 4th – 5%. **You need not be present to win.** Please come to make both our picnic and raffle a success. Thank you.

St. James Feast Day Picnic

Our St. James Picnic is fast approaching – **July 24th**. We need volunteers to set up, clean up, make salads, cook and help with children’s games. If you would like to volunteer your time, please call Art Henn at 973-293-3243, Carol Lombaerde at 973-948-2285 or the parish office. Thank you.

A Family Perspective

The gospel reports Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem” and his disciples could not dissuade Him from this commitment. The life changing commitments of marriage and parenting bind a family together. “No one puts a hand to the plow and looks back” because commitments “set our face” to a future we create.

BEYOND THE PARISH

The Deanery Choir will present their annual Healing Service at St. Joseph’s Church, 4th Street and Ave. F in Matamoras, PA on Tuesday evening, July 13th at 7:00PM. This year’s theme is **Does God Answer Prayer?** Please join us for an evening of prayer, praise, meditation and song. No tickets required. For more information, please call Linda at 570-775-0727.

The Homestead Nursing Home needs volunteers on various Tuesdays during each month to meet us at Wal-Mart. The volunteers are to help escort residents around the store, help them reach items off shelves and assist them with their purchases. We need the volunteers at Wal-Mart at 10:30AM until 1:30PM. Anyone who is interested in helping our seniors, please contact Danah at 973-948-5400 X3119.

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, June 27, 2010

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, June 28

Tuesday, June 29

10:00 a.m. STC Reflections on Readings

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

7:30 p.m. STC Parish Calendar Mtg.

Wednesday, June 30

Thursday, July 1

Friday, July 2

Saturday, July 3

Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle

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

2:00 p.m. STC St. T. Parish Picnic (till 5 p.m.)

Sunday, July 4, 2010

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Independence Day

Future Events

Tues. July 16 Altar Servers' Trip to Skyhawk Stadium

Sat. July 24 St. James Parish Picnic

Riding Out the Storm. The sea regularly serves as a metaphor for life. No one wants to go through "rough waters," and who doesn't prefer "smooth sailing"? As we all know, however, the voyage of a lifetime has stretches when stress, fear, depression, loss or disaster "rock your boat." In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus calms the wind not once but twice. In both cases a gale was making life difficult for the disciples on the lake, and both times the miracles showed Jesus' power over chaos, and the capacity of faith to overcome fear. We can't avoid stormy seas, but we can trust in the One to whom the wind and the water answer.

"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mk 4: 41)

Prepare the Word, Jan. '10

You Did It ! Deepest Congratulations to all our young parishioners who have graduated from High School or Grammar School or Middle School this year ! We are very proud of you ! I am sure there were times when you thought the day would never come. Let it be a lesson to you: not to wish for the time to go too fast. It will anyway. In the meantime, before you take the next step into college or high school, we hope that you will enjoy a well-earned vacation from all your studies !

St. Thomas Parish Picnic this Saturday.

We hope you will join us for a nice afternoon celebrating our life as members of St. Thomas Parish. Food, music, sports for the kids, fellowship (and good weather) will prevail. Our Parish Picnic begins at 2 p.m. and continues to at least 5 p.m.

Parish Calendar Meeting this Tuesday.

All leaders of parish groups are asked to Attend this meeting to finalize our Calendar for the coming year. It will be held at the Fr. Lewis Center at St. Thomas at 7:30 p.m. Hopefully we can easily iron out any apparent conflicts.

St. James "Set of Chairs" Raffle.

Raffle tickets are on sale for a **Set of Two Casual Chairs**. They have been donated by a parishioner in the furniture business, as part of our effort to raise money for the St. James Resurrection Fund. The chairs will fit nicely into any living room, sun room or rec room. **Cost of tickets is \$ 5.00 for the set.** The Resurrection Fund has been established to cover the cost of needed repairs. We hope that you will take tickets and also sell them to friends and neighbors. The raffle will be drawn during the **St. James Parish Picnic on Sat. July 24.**

The St. James Soup Kitchen has been assisting families and individuals with meals on Saturdays for two years now. The program needs your help to continue. We are asking for help on a monthly basis so that all our clients can continue to be served. Perhaps this can be a family project. Or you can team up with several other individuals. For more info, please call Tina at 201-841-7059. Here is one easy, practical way you can make a difference.