

Lessons from the Past

Today's First Reading from Isaiah, is like a celebration of Jerusalem. "Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her, all you who love her." "I will spread prosperity over her like a river." "In Jerusalem you shall find your comfort."

Isaiah is prophesying about the Jerusalem to come—a place favored by God and protected by His almighty strength. But the reality of the city--at the time these words were spoken--was anything but joyful. In fact, it had just suffered plunder, pillaging and destruction from the invading Babylonian army. Jerusalem at that moment was actually in ruins. Yet Isaiah still sees into the future: he prophesies a new city, with its center in God and its people enjoying prosperity and peace. At that particular moment in Jerusalem's history, the citizens certainly needed such reassurance.

Some would say that Isaiah's vision is coming true in our own land. America is a nation of great possibilities and opportunities. Millions, in the last century alone, (probably among them, your ancestors) have come from other places because of the hopes for a new life based on hard work and unlimited possibilities.

The last few years have been a challenge to those dreams. The downturn in the economy, the mistakes of past policies, the short-sightedness of those scheming to make quick bucks: all this has affected everyone. Dangers from outside enemies have compounded the problems.

But perhaps the most disturbing trend, from the perspective of faith, is the dismissal of God Himself from our land. The lack of recognition and reverence for His authority over our nation certainly affects our prosperity and peace.

For the people of ancient Israel: in the times when God's laws were followed, they prospered (as in the time of King David). In those periods when they ignored God's laws and sought out pagan gods—they became weak, self-centered, disunited, and were easily conquered by the Assyrians, Babylonians, and others.

Where do we stand at this present moment in our nation's life? Are we moving back towards prosperity, or deeper into recession? More importantly, is God's place in national life becoming greater, or is the Lord and His wisdom, guidance and laws being ignored?

We Catholics--and all people of faith--must insist on God's place in the life of our nation. By our fair treatment of others, by our lives lived according to God's moral laws, by our participating in civic life, may we influence the course of our nation and keep the Lord's presence strong in American life. It may be believers in God who are the only ones who can keep our nation strong and secure and a place of blessings for all.

God bless you, and Happy Independence Day,
Father Wayne

Prayer for Wise Governance

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the democracy alive in our country, and for the freedom to worship You. Help our elected leaders, and all in positions of power and authority, to govern wisely and for the common good. May they call upon Your Wisdom and Counsel in the decisions which affect all of us. Amen.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 4, 2010

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for the Intentions of Art & Maria Henn on their 40th Wedding Anniversary at the Request of the Ricciardi Family

TUESDAY, July 6

8:00AM – Genevieve Arnault
req. by Josephine

SATURDAY, July 10

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 11

8:00AM – Intentions of Evan Ruggerio
req. by Edna Schoepfer

11:30AM – Terry Naletko

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,380.00 – Regular Collection – June 27, 2010

\$ 277.00 – Energy Collection

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,463.00 – Regular Collection – June 28, 2009

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,310.00 – Regular Collection – June 27, 2010

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,822.00 – Regular Collection – June 28, 2009

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*

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

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in Memory of Edna Cosman at the Request of Dave & Marion

MONDAY, July 5

9:00AM – Jerry & Judy Wainwright
req. by the Wainwright Family

TUESDAY, July 6

9:00AM – Claire Tarabola
req. by Gerry Mahon

WEDNESDAY, July 7

9:00AM – William Frank
req. by his wife, Lydia & Family

THURSDAY, July 8

No Mass

FRIDAY, July 9

9:00AM – Intentions of Josephine Yarosz
Birthday Celebration
req. by Joanne DiMauro

SATURDAY, VIGIL, July 10

5:30 PM – Intentions of John & Arline Rahoche
On their 50th Wedding Anniversary
req. by Lyse & Wayne vonDoehren
- James Matthews
req. by his parents, Jim & Sandra

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 11

9:30AM – Eugene St. John
req. by his son, Richard & Family

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Registrations for 2010/2011 Catechetical Year

Re-registrations for parishioners in grades 2 through 8 were to be returned by July 1st to avoid the late fee. If you have not re-registered your child(ren) by now – you need to do so immediately.

Registrations for the Confirmation Preparation Program are to be returned 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.

World Youth Day 2011 Update

The five teens from our parishes who will attend WYD 2011 in Madrid, Spain have been working very hard to raise funds for this exciting pilgrimage next August. On our own, and with your help, we have raised about \$6,000.00 so far – but have a long way to go! Please take a moment and look at our bulletin board as it rotates between parishes along with our “*Making Our Way To Madrid*” collection jar (this is a great place for your loose change!!!!).

We met again last Sunday and have many ideas and events to come. Our next fund raiser will take place on **Saturday, July 10th at Sandyston Day**. We will be making and selling **Cotton Candy and Snow Cones**. If you are out and about that day – please stop by and see us! We continue to thank you for your prayers and support.

Community Service Hours

Are you looking for service hours for our Confirmation Program or for your school? Do you enjoy being outside in the warm summer sun? If so, there is always garden work that needs to be done at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center. Please call Mrs. Flexer if you are interested.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our parishes have an active group of women who knit and crochet prayer shawls for those who need comfort and to feel the warm embrace of our loving community. From September, 2009 through June, 2010, 98 shawls were blessed by Fr. Wayne and were given to all who may have been going through a difficult time in life. Also, 35 baby blankets were made and distributed to new moms. There is never a charge for these works of love, and we have a few shawls still available for whenever they are needed. If anyone wishes to make a donation to buy more yarn or has yarn that they are no longer using, we are always accepting of your generosity. Please call 973-948-7004. The women who participate in this ministry are: Mary Jo Brandon, Deirdre Burgos, Cordelia Cafone, Frances Demalderis, Grace Hagerman, Mary Luteran, Sandra Matthews, Jackie McCune, Grace Reich, Doris Sieperman and Pat Wilson. Our ministry (and our hands) are resting for the next two months, and we will begin again on September 20th. We meet at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center on the first and third Mondays and are always ready to welcome new members!

R.C.I.A.: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

- ❖ Are you un-baptized, but recognize a need for spirituality in your life?
- ❖ Are you baptized Catholic, or baptized in another faith tradition and never received any formal religious education?
- ❖ Are you married to a Catholic and go to Mass, but don't know how to become Catholic?
- ❖ Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Church?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, the R.C.I.A. is the place for you! R.C.I.A. is the process through which the Catholic Church welcomes [initiates] new members. R.C.I.A. guides present members who wish to complete their initiation through the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist. R.C.I.A. guides those who want to be received into the Catholic Church from another faith tradition. The Catholic Church is continually welcoming new members. R.C.I.A. ---an adult faith sharing process is ongoing and waiting to welcome you. Please call the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004 and your phone call will be promptly returned.

A Family Perspective

The gospel today is clear: Peace comes to a “household if a peaceful person lives there.” Peace starts with your ability to forgive, to correct without attacking, to accept the ways of others and to recognize a different opinion is not a personal rejection. It is actually your own peace which you give to your family.

In today's gospel the apostles were giddy with their new POWER (“Even the demons obey us!”) On this July Fourth weekend, Jesus cautions power is easily misused to dominate or manipulate others. True power is meant to “free captives,” especially those handcuffed by grief, chained to unresolved conflict, jailed inside a timid personality or imprisoned by illness.

Respect Life Reflections

“The Lord watches over the stranger and sustains the fatherless and the widow” – PS 146:9 Reflection: On the base of the Statue of Liberty are the words: “Give us your tired, your poor, your huddles masses yearning to breathe free.” This welcome can make no sense if we are afraid to welcome the child in the womb. **PRAYER:** Lord, fill our hearts with a spirit of welcome for born and unborn alike.

St. James Feast Day Picnic

Our St. James Picnic will take place on July 24th and is fast approaching. We will be having a meeting on **July 11th** after the 8:00am Mass in the church hall to discuss what needs to be done. If you are interested, please come, as we are in need of volunteers to set up, clean up, make salads, cook and help with children's games. You may also call Art Henn at 973-293-3243, Carol Lombaerde at 973-948-2285 or the parish office. Thank you.

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, July 4, 2010

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Independence Day

Monday, July 5

Tuesday, July 6

Wednesday, July 7

Thursday, July 8

Friday, July 9

Saturday, July 10

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

Sunday, July 11, 2010

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Future Events

Tues. July 16 Altar Servers' Trip to Skyhawk Stadium

Sat. July 24 St. James Parish Picnic

In August: Family Day at Camp Linwood-McDonald

Trip to the Holy Land. Many people refer to the Holy Land as the Fifth Gospel because so much can be learned about the life of Jesus in visiting the sacred places that were prominent in His life. So many spiritual concepts can be unfolded as one journeys through this land where Jesus was born, lived, died, and rose to new life. Our neighboring parish, Good Shepherd Church in Andover is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Sept. 25 – Oct. 3, 2010. It promises to be an enriching and deeply rewarding faith experience that will touch your life in a very real way. Cana, Nazareth, the Mount of the Beatitudes, the Mount of Olives, Via Dolorosa, and the Holy Sepulchre are some of the places that will be visited. Mass will be celebrated each day at one of the shrines. For more information, call the parish office of Good Shepherd, 973-786-6631.

Happy Fourth of July !! Today marks the 234th year since our nation declared its independence in 1776. At that time our Founding Fathers devised a system of government that is the model for much of the world. May we pray that our leaders today will be open to the voice of the Holy Spirit—the same Spirit that offers true wisdom, and calls all people to true liberty and freedom. The Spirit wishes to guide all to maturity and fulfillment. May our leaders and our citizens allow the Spirit to speak within them.

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.**

Last Call for Young Men, ages 15—25:: Here are two short retreats available in our area. Take the opportunity to think about your future, and the Lord's place in your life.

* **Quo Vadis Days:** a time of recreation, fellowship, prayer and discussion to help you explore the Lord's call in your life. Activities include prayer, Mass, adoration of Blessed Sacrament, hiking, games, recreation, sports, swimming, talks, food, discussions. **When: Sun. July 18—Wed. July 21** **Where: Mt St. Francis Retreat Center, Ringwood, N.J.** **Cost: free (not a misprint).** To register, contact Office of Vocations, Paterson Diocese at 973-777-8818 ext 711 or mnunez@patersondiocese.org

* **Salesian Life Camp:** A chance to see the Salesian life up close. There will be prayer, discussions on faith, Mass candlelight rosary, recreation, sports, hiking, swimming, campfire, discussions on Salesian priesthood and brotherhood. **When: Wed. July 21—Sat. July 24.** **Where: Sacred Heart Center, Newton.** For info call 973-761-0201 or go to www.salesianvocation.com/site/camp/default.htm