

WHAT KIND OF BUILDING IS THIS ??

“You are ... built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets.”

(Ephesians 2: 19—20)

That’s an unsettling statement, isn’t it ? If we are really built upon the foundation of the apostles, it’s a miracle that the Church survived its first decades, let alone the past two thousand years ! Paul, for instance, *“persecuted the Church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.”* (Galatians 1: 13.) John and James wanted to destroy a whole town simply because the people didn’t treat Jesus with enough deference (Luke 9: 51—56.) Peter denied Jesus in His darkest hour (Matthew 26: 69—75.) And Thomas is best known for his doubts and disbelief.

How can we place confidence in our church when it is built on such an unstable foundation ? By remembering that Jesus is the capstone who holds us all together. Like us, the apostles were regular people with their own flaws and imperfections. It was only because of God’s grace and the Holy Spirit’s power that they were able to turn their lives around and end up doing great things for the Lord. And that’s good news. For if there was hope for Paul, John, James, Thomas and Peter, there is certainly hope for us !

Isn’t it encouraging to know that the great heroes of our faith were just as flawed—and even maybe more so—than you ? Their stories tell us that no matter who we are or where we come from, God can use us in powerful ways. Take Thomas, for example. This man who couldn’t believe his closest friends’ testimony, ended up traveling as far as India, boldly preaching the Gospel establishing the Church there. Clearly Thomas overcame his objections and fears enough to become a vessel for the Lord to use. And James gave up his ambitions to be ‘vice president’ of the Kingdom, sitting next to Jesus, in order to be its first martyr. And if such changes could happen for them, they surely can happen for you !

So take comfort today in the knowledge that we are all *“fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God.”* (Ephesians) They are our brothers and sisters, and their stories can teach us how to persevere with the Lord, despite our weaknesses and failings. God is faithful to us, just as He was to the apostles. Like them, we can all become a new creation in Christ.

**“Jesus, teach me how to build my life on the foundation
of your unfailing love and grace.”**

The Word Among Us
July 2010

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 18, 2010

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Jimmy Hollywood at the
Request of Carol Lombaerde

TUESDAY, July 20

8:00AM – No Mass

SATURDAY, July 24

8:00 AM – Charlie & Carol Lombaerde
In recognition of their wedding day

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 25

8:00AM – People of the Parish

11:30AM – People of the Parish

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,223.00 – Regular Collection – July 11, 2010

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,392.00 – Regular Collection – July 12, 2009

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,518.00 – Regular Collection – July 11, 2010

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$3,156.00 – Regular Collection – July 12, 2009

St. Thomas the Apostle

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

MONDAY, July 19

9:00AM – Intentions of Mike Thompson
req. by Uncle John & Aunt Marie

TUESDAY, July 20

9:00AM – Intentions of Joanne DiMauro
For Restoration of Full Health
req. by Josephine

WEDNESDAY, July 21

9:00AM – William Frank
req. by Mary Flexer

THURSDAY, July 22

No Mass

FRIDAY, July 23

9:00AM – Dorothy Kitson
req. by Grace Reich

SATURDAY, VIGIL, July 24

5:30 PM – Fred & Grace Battali

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 25

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

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 and for the Confirmation Preparation Program **were to be returned by July 15th to avoid the late fee. If you have not already re-registered your child(ren) - you need to do so immediately.**

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.

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.

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

Are you, or someone you know, interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church? Explore your interest through the R.C.I.A. ---'Come and See'. When Jesus was approached by those who wanted to become His disciples, Jesus invited them to "...come and see". Walk with us. Learn who we are, then make your decision to become Catholic, a disciple of Jesus. If you have thought about the R.C.I.A. before, and passed up the opportunity, today may be the time that the Holy Spirit has chosen for you. The R.C.I.A. is a time for you and your needs and concerns. It is a journey in faith and a time to slow down to enjoy the journey. 'Come and See' by calling the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004.

Blood Drive

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Blood Drive in the Father Lewis Center on **Sunday, July 25th** from 8:00AM to 1:30PM. Blood supplies are low during the summer and donations are greatly appreciated. Please sign up to donate and help save lives!

St. James and St. Thomas Food Pantry

The following items are needed to stock our pantry. Please consider making a donation in order to help those in need – boxed cereal, oatmeal packets, peanut butter and jelly, pancake mix, syrup, granola bars, canned tuna and chicken, mayonnaise, jar or canned pasta sauce, pasta, canned pasta, canned soup, canned potatoes, boxed macaroni and cheese, boxed instant mashed potatoes, boxed stuffing, boxed rice, cake mixes, muffin mixes, coffee, tea, sugar, juice (bottles and boxes), crackers, cookies and toiletries (deodorant, soap and toothpaste). Gift cards to Shop Rite in \$10.00 increments would also be helpful for perishable items.

Please make sure food is in original packaging with current dates. Donations can be left at St. James or St. Thomas for your convenience. Thank you for your support.

A Family Perspective

In your family don't make Martha's mistake and get caught in DOING at the expense of BEING. Relationships take time to develop and BEING a family can't be squeezed into pre-planned blocks of "quality time." Real quality time is QUANTITY TIME.

Cell phones, emails, faxes, texts and voice mails can reduce our life to a continual series of interrupted moments, robbing us of the precious time needed to be with others. Listen to Jesus in today's gospel: "You are anxious about many things!" Is He speaking to you today? Quality time is QUANTITY TIME.

Martha probably planned to visit with Jesus AFTER she finished cooking and cleaning. Today's gospel is about priorities and warns us not to put jobs, appointments and projects ahead of our family. Relationships take time to develop and raising a family can't be squeezed into pre-planned blocks of "quality time." Real quality time is QUANTITY TIME. Love is not scheduled like an appointment.

Respect Life Reflections

"They do more harm to those who practice them than to those who suffer from the injury" Gaudium et Spes, 27. Reflection: This quote from Vatican II is speaking about abortion, euthanasia, genocide & various other form of violence against human life and dignity. Prayer: Lord, have mercy on those who carry out practices against human life and dignity. Convert, heal and save them.

From Our Columbiettes

How can I help? The Columbiettes have a no cost way that you can help. As many of you already know, we collect can tabs from soda cans, soup cans, cat food cans, etc and cancelled stamps. We are now adding card fronts from used greeting cards of all occasions, "box tops" for education found on cereal boxes and baking mixes and "Campbell" soup labels for education. These new additions will be sent to St. Jude's Children Ranch in Boulder City, NV. This organization provides a safe haven for abused and neglected children. These items can be placed in the container in the church labeled for can tabs etc. Any questions, please call Donna Lewandowski at 973-293-3706 or email at donnalew1@optonline.net. Thank you.

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.

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 18, 2010

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, July 19

Tuesday, July 20

Wednesday, July 21

Thursday, July 22

Friday, July 23

Saturday, July 24

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

12 Noon SJC St. James Family Picnic

Sunday, July 25, 2010

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Feast of St. James the Greater

Future Events

In August: Family Day at Camp Linwood-McDonald

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 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 24th**

St. James Christmas Bazaar Committee is holding a planning meeting on **Thurs. July 29.** All volunteers interested in helping with this year's Bazaar are invited to attend this planning meeting, beginning at **7:00 p.m. at St. James Church Hall.**

Summer Food Pantry Drive. Our Food Pantry is low on supplies at the same time that we are experiencing increased calls for help. To answer this problem, high school student Gina Barbagallo will be conducting an Emergency Food Drive on **these two weekends** at both our parishes. Boxes are placed in the Gathering Space for dropping off items. **Please check the notice on page four for items especially needed at this time.**

Catching up on the Sacraments:

The Sacraments of Initiation:

Baptism Before His Ascension, Jesus instructed the Apostles: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Mt. 28:19). In the cleansing waters of Baptism we rejoice in God's ongoing love that we first received at our conception. The baptismal candle signifies our embrace of the Light of Christ as celebrated at the Easter Vigil, and the white garment is a sign of the sacrament's action, clothing us in God's grace. Ideally, this sacrament of initiation is celebrated in community, as a sign of one's communal journey of faith.

Confirmation With Baptism and Eucharist, Confirmation is one of the Church's three sacraments of Christian initiation. Through prayer, anointing with sacred chrism, and the laying on of hands, the *confirmandi* are imprinted with a spiritual seal--the gift of the Holy Spirit, and a deepening of baptismal grace. Holy Scripture recalls, "*For on him (the Son of Man) the Father, God, has set his seal.*" (Jn 6:27) Likewise, "the effect of the sacrament ... is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1302*).

Eucharist. The word Eucharist comes from the Greek noun (*eucharistia*) meaning "thanksgiving." Catholics believe that in the Eucharist, both a sacrifice and a meal, we receive the Lord: body and blood, soul and divinity. The Eucharist is traced to the Last Supper when Christ instructed his disciples to offer bread and wine in his memory. When we gather for this sacrament, we celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and thereby participate in the mystery of salvation.

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