

THE BIBLE AND THE NEWSPAPER

The Scripture passages we read at Mass today were written over two thousand years ago. But they might have just as easily been composed yesterday. They speak so truthfully to our inmost being, as we continue waiting and hoping for better days, as we struggle to recover from the worst financial crisis in decades.

For many, the current economic crisis is a time of mourning for what they lost. For others, it has been a reminder to be more aware of and grateful for what they still have. For us as Catholic Christians, the Scriptures today remind us that perhaps the biggest opportunity hidden in the shadows of this economic crisis may be found in remembering what is truly important. These times give us a push forward in re-ordering and re-prioritizing our values: away from finding worth in material things, and endeavoring, instead, as Paul challenged his listeners, to *seek what is above*.

On a practical level, what does it mean when Jesus speaks of storing up treasure for ourselves in heaven ? Jesus, in today's Gospel, points to one of the key elements when He instructs us to *be on guard against all greed*. After all, was it not greed that, in large part, brought us to the brink of an economic meltdown ? Other ways of storing up treasure in heaven include *expressing gratitude* for the blessings we have been given. Even more effective is *sharing those blessings with others*. Spending a day volunteering at a food pantry or visiting at a nursing home, for instance, can do wonders to help in both these areas.

Perhaps, as we try to deal with our troubled times, we might be inclined to go out and stimulate the economy by buying a new outfit, when what we really need is to *put on the new self* that is ours as members of Christ's body. This requires us to make a serious and concerted effort to grow in our faith life and to move from simply paying lip service to God, to truly living out what we profess. We may always be subject to economic ups and downs, but we can find treasure beyond belief when we recognize the great love God has for each of us.

Like the man in the Gospel, many of us would like to simply sit back, relax and live off of our abundance. Would that not be the life ? But like the man in the story, one day God will call us home to Himself. We will have to leave everything behind so that we can enter eternal life. Let us make sure we are investing our time and energy in the right things. Those are not the ones primarily related to accumulating wealth or possessions, but ones that deal with loving God and others. The message could not be timelier. The question is: what will be our response ?

--from *Homilies for Sunday and Weekday Mass*, 2010

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 1, 2010

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Charlie Lombaerde at the
Request of his wife, Carol

TUESDAY, August 3

8:00AM – Rose Marie Breitbach
req. by Carol Lombaerde

SATURDAY, August 7

8:00 AM – Wilton “Abby” Lamoreaux
req. by Kyle & Yvon Leroy

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 8

8:00AM – Jimmy Hollywood
req. by Carol Lombaerde

11:30AM – Father Gerald Lewis

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,328.00 – Regular Collection – July 25, 2010

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,064.00 – Regular Collection – July 26, 2009

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$1,919.00 – Regular Collection – July 25, 2010

\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$2,720.00 – Regular Collection – July 26, 2009

St. Thomas the Apostle

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

MONDAY, August 2

9:00AM – Ella Karahuta
req. by Mary Cunico

TUESDAY, August 3

9:00AM – Ella Karahuta
req. by Frances Demalderis & Gerry Mahon

WEDNESDAY, August 4

9:00AM – Father James Gacquin

THURSDAY, August 5

No Mass

FRIDAY, August 6

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

SATURDAY, VIGIL, August 7

5:30 PM – Harry & Sophie Wainwright
req. by the Wainwright Family

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 8

9:30AM – Sal Siracusano

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, Carl & 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.



We joyfully welcome
Thomas John Alsdorf
Caylee Lynn Fletcher
Joshua Frank LoPorto
who were all baptized during July.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

On This Day We Celebrate.....

On August 6th, the Church celebrates the Transfiguration of the Lord. On this feast, we remember the day Jesus took His apostles, Peter, James and John up to a very high mountain. They saw Him become *transfigured*. The apostles saw Jesus talking to Moses and Elijah, two Old Testament prophets. They also heard God the Father's voice from heaven say, "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him." Jesus showed His closest apostles His divine glory to help them prepare to see Him suffer and die for us.

As most of us will probably never make a pilgrimage to Mount Tabor to the site where the Transfiguration took place, take some time this week to visit it on Google Earth.

Registrations for 2010/2011 Catechetical Year

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.

From the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

As we begin the last month of the summer, the R.C.I.A. begins to look to the faith community. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the responsibility of the entire faith community. As a community of faith, we are called to encourage others to become fully initiated Catholics. Each of us as followers of Jesus is called to be both a hearer of the Word and a doer of the Word. Get involved in spreading the message of God's Word! Exercise your faith! Now is your opportunity. Be a motivator of another on their journey of faith. As a doer of the Word, you will become more aware of how God is present and active in your life each day. Have those you motivate call the Religious Education office at 973-948-7004, and your call will be returned.

Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a family trip to a baseball game; AAA Yanks vs. AAA Mets at PNC Field in Scranton, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, August 11th. We will be traveling on a 55 passenger coach bus and leaving St. Thomas parking lot at 4:30PM. The cost of \$35.00 per person includes ticket to game, bus transportation, hat, game program and all you can eat hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, soda and water. Please contact Tom Costello at 973-948-0324.

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 in Newton.

Respect Life Reflections

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." Rom 8:16. Reflection: The Holy Spirit enables us to understand created realities, their value and relationship to the Creator and our own happiness. We can therefore ask the Holy Spirit to give us an understanding of the value and dignity of the human person. Prayer: *Through Your eternal Spirit, You enable me to understand Your works as coming from Your hand. I praise You forever!*

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.



St. James and St. Thomas Food Pantry

Thank you to Richard and Ellen Carlson who have generously volunteered their time and talents to serve as Food Pantry Coordinators. "Many hands make light work", so if there are others who would also like to serve in this very important ministry of our parishes, please call Mary Flexer for details.

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, August 1, 2010

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

Monday, Aug. 2

10 a.m.—3 p.m. Day at Camp Linwood-McDonald

Tuesday, Aug. 3

Wednesday, Aug. 4

Thursday, Aug. 5

Friday, Aug. 6

Saturday, Aug. 7

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

Sunday, August 8, 2010

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Angel Food, a Food Relief Program. The United Methodist Church of Branchville (8 Broad St.) has asked us to advertise their new food ministry, which is open to all. The ministry buys food in large volumes from reputable distributors. Then they break it down into healthy, balanced menus and are able to create meals *for less than half the regular cost*. Each menu consists of fresh, frozen and packaged food. There are no applications, no forms to fill out or qualifications to participate. For more info call 973-948-3749 or contact [w.w.w.gbgm-umc.org/umbranch](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/umbranch).

Dream the impossible. One of the most remarkable features of Saint John Neumann's life (1811-1860) is that he was able to become a priest in the first place. By the time he decided to join the priesthood, there was a surplus of clergy—not only in his native Bohemia but all over Europe. Every inquiry elicited the same response: all ordinations were suspended for the foreseeable future. Undaunted, Neumann wrote to the bishop of New York, who agreed to ordain him. He had to travel halfway across the world to achieve his dream, but he did it. God does not give us dreams we cannot achieve. What dream have you put off because it seemed “impossible”? Today is the day to reconsider taking that first step.

Prepare the Word, 2010

St. James Family Picnic. Our thanks to all who worked to make the Picnic a great success. Gratitude to Richard Henn, Jim Marion and Art Henn, general chairmen, and to all who helped cook and set up. Congratulations to Jenn Olenick, who won the “Set of Chairs” raffle, and thanks to parishioner Jorge Coyoy, of *Creative Upholstery Group of Paterson*, for producing and donating the chairs.

Foreign Exchange. Pope John XXIII Regional High School is looking for families for foreign exchange students (Chinese) for the school year 2010—2011. There is a stipend of \$ 1000.00 per month per child to the host family. For further information, please call Mrs. Karen Bent, Pope John Guidance Office, at 973-729-6125, ext. 227.

Going on a long journey ? ‘Catholic’ means ‘universal.’ You can find a Catholic Church wherever you go. To make church a part of your holiday experience, simply consult www.masstimes.org

Catching up on the Sacraments:

The Sacraments of Vocation:

Marriage. The “elevation of marriage to the loftiest dignity of a sacrament must be seen with gratitude and wonder.” (Pope Benedict XVI, 2005). Wherever the Sacrament of Marriage is administered in the Church today—by the bride and groom, one to the other—Christ is present. The sacrament “gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love which Christ has loved His Church” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, # 1661). It is a “great mystery” (*Ephesians 5:32*). Once invited to the wedding, Jesus enters hearts and homes, transforming ordinary marriages into life-giving families.

Holy Orders. “The whole Church is a priestly people” (*Catechism*, # 1591). But God calls some to “another participation in the mission of Christ: the ministry conferred by the Sacrament of Holy Orders (1591). Jesus is with us always—as He promised—in the person of the bishop, the priest and the deacon. Through the Sacrament of Ordination, they are “totally inserted into Christ, so that ... they may carry out in communion with Him the service of Jesus.” (Pope Benedict XVI, 2006).

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