

Begone !

Mark 1: 21--28

Today's Gospel warns us to be on guard because evil spirits are constantly at work tempting us and harassing us. This warning is even more urgent today, because the world has practically dismissed the reality of evil spirits.

Evil spirits are always on the prowl. They have been present ever since Adam and Eve were in the garden. They whisper lies and half-truths to us and try to confuse us. They try to influence us to do things that we know are wrong—even things we don't want to do. We have all felt their influence at different times. We know how they have tried to sow division, to make us fearful, to get us down on ourselves, to lie, to manipulate people, even to doubt God's love.

Yes, we have a free will. Yes, we make the final choices for our lives. But these choices are never made in isolation. They are always influenced by the people around us, by the media, by the Holy Spirit, *and* by Satan.

All this may sound intimidating, but we shouldn't be afraid. Jesus overcame one evil spirit in today's Gospel, and He overcame them all on the cross. We just have to be more alert to what is coming into our minds, and especially more alert to the devil's tactics.

Another thing we can do is to begin every day by praying for protection against evil spirits. All we have to do is say the words that Jesus taught us: "*Father, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*"

Finally, we should deepen our faith in the power of the name of Jesus. Scripture tells us how St. Paul, in dealing with an evil spirit that was harassing a woman, commanded: "*I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.*" And the spirit left immediately (Acts 16: 18.) Likewise, we need to call on the name of Jesus throughout the day, especially when we are feeling tempted or harassed.

***"In the name of Jesus, I command all evil spirits to be quiet
and to depart from me and from every member of my family.
Lord, deliver us from the lies of the evil one and help us
to be ever more alert."***

--from *The Word Among Us*
January 2012

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 29, 2012

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Helen Holub at the
Request of Valerie Ricciardi & Kathy Schreiber

TUESDAY, January 31

8:00AM – Rose & Sandor Szabo

SATURDAY, February 4

8:00AM – Walter & Norma Journey

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 5

8:00AM – Cordelia Cafone
req. by Carol Lombaerde

11:30AM – Father Sy Livolsi

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 952.00 - Regular Collection – January 22, 2012

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$1,061.00 – Regular Collection – January 23, 2011

Consider a gift to St. James Parish when revising your will.

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Lillian Bamond, Bree Andrews, Mary Bell, Vickie Bennett, Ron Bogle, Joseph Bruno, Eric Cerra, Gail Collis, Jerry Cooper, Jason DeLorenzo, Carole Drozdowski, Geri Fawyer, Al Ferrari, Chris Finn, Mike Gergel, Tyler Goodyear, Dylan Gordon, Nancy Green, Eric Harper, Horace Harper, Catherine Higgins, Deborah Horvath, Sharon Hubbell, Peter Jaycay, Sharon Johnson, Pearle Kohol, Ann Lamb, Chuck Lombaerde, Don Martin, Ginny Monk, Karen Morgan, Richard Nowicki, Lugi Osso, Jim Phillips, Flo Puccio, Connie Quinn, Maria Re, Ty Roberson, Ruth Rogers, Greg Schmidt, Evelyn Schweer, Deena Slain, Carson John St.Clare, Don Tanacredi, Catherine Vecharello, Lisa Vergona, Tarra Wagner, Zachary Wright, Josephine Yarosz, Wanda Yepes, Logan Williams and Gabriel Wyzga

The **Legion of Mary** meets every Saturday morning at 9:15 AM in the Msgr. Gacquin Youth & Religious Education Center. Men and women of both parishes are invited to consider Auxiliary or Active membership. For further information, please contact the parish office.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Jozef Szwajkiewicz at the
Request of John & Maria Babon

MONDAY, January 30

9:00AM – Father Santan Pinto
req. by the VanderPloog Family

TUESDAY, January 31

9:00AM – Cordelia Cafone
req. by Gerry Mahon
- Josephine Car
Birthday Remembrance
req. by the Batko Family

WEDNESDAY, February 1

9:00AM – Carolyn Lewis
req. by Mary Flexer

THURSDAY, February 2

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 3

9:00AM – Cordelia Cafone
req. by Rita & Milan Straka

SATURDAY, February 4

4:30PM – G. Keith Ledder
req. by Flo & Andy Puccio

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 5

9:30AM – Zofia Babon
req. by John & Maria Babon

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$ 1,697.00 – Regular Collection – January 22, 2012

\$ 4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

\$ 2,611.00 – Regular Collection – January 23, 2011

Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish when revising your will

Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima Statue/Legion of Mary

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, or need any further information about the Legion of Mary in our parishes, please contact Diana, Legion of Mary, at 973-948-7601. *Pray the Family Rosary.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

First Reconciliation Parents Meeting

Our upcoming formation session for parents who have children preparing to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation will take place on Monday, January 30th at 7:00pm at the Msgr. Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center. Sr. Theresa Kelly, FMA, from the Sacred Heart Center in Newton, will be leading us that evening. As per the sacramental guidelines of the Diocese of Paterson, it is imperative that at least one parent be present at this important gathering.

Confirmation II Retreat

Just a reminder to all second-year Confirmation Candidates who were not on retreat in November – you are expected to be at the Confirmation II Retreat at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton on Sunday, February 5th from 10:00AM through 5:15PM (Mass will be celebrated at 4:00PM).

Please keep in your prayer our candidates who will be on retreat as well as all of our teens who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this April.

Religious Education Inclement Weather Policy

Although we have been very blessed so far this winter, we would just like to remind you of our policy for cancellation of classes. Cancellations will be posted by WSUS radio on their website at www.wsus1023.com. Please check this site. If that is not possible, you can always call the Religious Education Office at 973-948-7004 and listen to any cancellation message there.

Health Ministry CPR Course

This is the last call for those interested in a “hands on” CPR course. The course is free – however, a donation for the food pantry would be appreciated.

Date: Saturday, February 18th

Time: 1:00PM until 4:00PM

Place: Father Lewis Center, St. Thomas Church

Please sign up on the bulletin board at St. Thomas or call the parish office.

(For those needing a Heart Saver AED card for an employer, there will be a fee of \$15.00)

The Health Ministry meets every third Tuesday of the month at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center and is always ready to welcome new members – so feel free to join us!

Food Delivery

Can you answer this call to help deliver Soup Kitchen Meals for about an hour every other week? It would be a Saturday morning project, taking about an hour from start to finish. The meals would be picked up from St. James Church Hall. If you can help in this easy but very effective effort or would just like some info, please call Tina Kornmeyer at 201-841-7059.

Columbiettes' Reminder

We continue to collect cancelled stamps, can tabs, box tops for education, labels (Campbell Soup) for education and card fronts from all types of cards. All items may be left in the barrel in the gathering space at St. Thomas or the entrance hall to St. James.

Columbiettes' Project:

“Warm Up America” – Crochet or knit a 7” X 9” rectangle any color or pattern and donate to us. We will assemble them into Afghans for the homeless. We will also be accepting: homemade scarves, hats, gloves or mittens. If you do not crochet or knit and would like to help us by donating yarn or have questions, please contact Colleen Buck at 973-948-7714.

Blood Drive

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Blood Drive in the Father Lewis Center **TODAY, Sunday, January 29th** from 8:00AM to 2:00PM. Blood supplies are at critically low levels during the winter months.

Mom & Tot Playgroup

The St. Thomas/St. James Mom & Tot Playgroup is open to all mothers or caregivers and their children. There is no cost to join. We meet Thursdays during the school year in the Father Lewis Center from 9:30am to 11:30am. Come see what we are all about! For more information, please call Joanne at 973-948-0161.

Catholic Schools' Week

In celebration of Catholic Schools' Week, St. Joseph Regional School, 20 Jefferson Street in Newton will host an Open House on Monday, January 30th at 7:00pm; snow date February 6th. Tour our newly remodeled school and witness the faith and excellence of a Catholic education. For more information, please feel free to phone the school at 973-383-2909 or visit www.stjosephregionalschool.org.

St. James Venison Dinner

On Saturday, **February 4th**, St. James will be hosting their annual Venison Dinner at the Tri-State Naval Ship, 46 Barcelow Street, Port Jervis, New York at 6:00pm. Ticket donations are \$25.00 per person and will be available after Masses or call Art Henn at 973-293-3243.

We are looking for donations for the dessert table. If you would like to provide a dessert on February 4th, please contact Linda Spinapolic at 973-293-7031. We are also accepting “bottles of spirits” for the raffle table. If you would like to make a donation for the raffle table, please call Art Henn. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Join the Prison Ministry. Deacon Wayne has been involved in Catholic prison ministry for many years at Newton County Jail and other facilities. You are asked to help in letting the inmates know that people “on the outside” are thinking of them and praying for them. You are asked to consider becoming a pen-pal to one or more inmates—male or female. You'd be asked to write brief letters, encouraging them to persevere in their personal struggles. It would be on a first name basis only, with no addresses disclosed. Please call Deacon Wayne for more details, 973-293-3344. Your interest might make a big difference in the life of someone in trouble.

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, January 29, 2012

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8 a.m.—2 p.m. STC K of C Blood Drive

9:30 a.m. STC Gr. 6, 7, 8 Mass & Class

1:00 p.m. REC Confirmation Prep.

Monday, Jan. 30

7:00 p.m. REC First Reconciliation Parents' Mtg.

Tuesday, Jan. 31

10:00 a.m. STC Reflection of Readings

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 2 & 3

Wednesday, Feb. 1

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1, 4 & 5

7:00 p.m. REC R.C.I.A.

Thursday, Feb. 2

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

Friday, Feb. 3

9:00 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed

Sacrament after Mass, till 12 Noon

12 Noon STC Noon Prayer of the Divine Office

Saturday, Feb. 4

9:15 a.m. REC Legion of Mary Mtg.

10:00 a.m. Right to Life Rosary at Planned Parenthood, Newton

1:00 p.m. STC Training Session for
Why Catholic?

6:00 p.m. Annual St. James Venison Dinner
at Tri State Naval Ship, Port Jervis

Sunday, February 5, 2012

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

11:30 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

Future Events

Sat. Feb. 18 STC C.P. R. Instruction,
1 p.m.—4 p.m.

Sun. Feb. 19 STC K of C Men's Concert
& Pasta Dinner

An Introduction to this season of *Why Catholic?* will take place **this Sat. afternoon, Feb. 4th, from 1 p.m.—3 p.m. at St. Thomas.** Sr. Kathleen will speak to us about effective ways to pray. In this age of instant communication, with every electronic device available, the most reliable is still our time in prayer with the Lord. All, especially group leaders are asked to attend this two hour session.

***Why Catholic?* Season IV** is set to begin. To be a part of this six-session group discussion on "*Prayer: Making Contact With God,*" call the office to join an existing group. Or start one of your own.

Teachers, baby-sitters, coaches, ushers:

A great opportunity, a **free C.P.R. class** for all those who monitor the well-being of others, is being offered at St. Thomas. The more people competent in **cardio-pulmonary resuscitation**--the safer we all can be. Learn the techniques at a one afternoon session on **Sat. Feb. 18th, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.** Parishioners trained in C.P.R. instruction will teach us. Please call the office at 973-948-2296 and sign up. For those who need an official certification card, the cost will be \$ 15.

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 www.gbmg-umc.org/umbranch.

Feast of Saint Blase, Bishop and Martyr: Fri., Feb. 3 One of the most popular traditional devotions in the church is the Blessing of Throats on this day, invoking the intercession of Saint Blase. Blase was arrested in 316 A.D. during a persecution of Christians. On the way to prison tradition has it that he miraculously healed a young child who was choking. After his death the story of this cure spread throughout the region of present-day Armenia. Today he is known throughout the world. We will have the traditional Blessing of Throats next Sunday, at the end of Mass.