

# Fourth Sunday of Lent

“As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus’ thirst... ‘Repent and believe.’”

BLESSED TERESA OF CALCUTTA



**Giving - Fasting - Praying**  
**Repenting - Forgiving**

St. James the Greater  
Montague, New Jersey

St. Thomas the Apostle  
Sandyston, New Jersey

December 29, 2020

RICHARD A. SOKERKA, Editor, Gen. Mgr.

The recent release of COVID-19 vaccines has caused some to question the efficacy of the vaccines due to their quick clinical trials, but beyond that, some Catholics have questioned the ethics of taking a vaccine that may have used cell lines from aborted fetuses.

The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith (CDF) addressed those questions last week when it stated that it is “morally acceptable” to receive COVID-19 vaccines produced using cell lines from aborted fetuses when no alternative is available.

In a note issued Dec. 21, the CDF said that in countries where vaccines without ethical problems are unavailable to physicians and patients — or where their distribution is more difficult due to special storage or transport conditions — it is “morally acceptable to receive COVID-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.”

“This does not in any way imply a legitimation of the grave evil of the practice of abortion or that there is a moral endorsement of the use of cell lines proceeding from aborted fetuses,” the Vatican congregation said.

The mRNA vaccines developed by Moderna and Pfizer are not produced with aborted fetal cell lines, although aborted fetal cells were used in tests during the early stages of vaccine design.

The other leading vaccine candidates developed by AstraZeneca with Oxford University, Johnson & Johnson, and Novavax, are produced using aborted fetal cell lines.

The CDF’s statement, approved by Pope Francis, went on to say that the spread of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 poses a grave danger and therefore “the moral duty to avoid the remote passive material cooperation is not obligatory.”

“It must therefore be considered that, in such a case, all vaccinations recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience with the certain knowledge that the use of such vaccines does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion from which the cells used in production of the vaccines derive,” the CDF said.

The Vatican congregation encouraged pharmaceutical companies and governmental health agencies to “produce, approve, distribute and offer ethically acceptable vaccines that do not create problems of conscience for either health care providers or the people to be vaccinated. In fact, the licit use of such vaccines does not and should not in any way imply that there is a moral endorsement of the use of cell lines proceeding from aborted fetuses,” it stated.

The CDF also stated that vaccination “must be voluntary,” while noting that those who refuse to receive vaccines produced with cell lines from aborted fetuses for reasons of conscience “must do their utmost to avoid ... becoming vehicles for the transmission of the infectious agent. In particular, they must avoid any risk to the health of those who cannot be vaccinated for medical or other reasons, and who are the most vulnerable.”

This clarity from the Vatican should ease the fears some Catholics have regarding the vaccines.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 14, 2021**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Larry Belcher at the  
Request of his Family

**SATURDAY, March 20**

8:00AM – Frank & Rose Reed  
req. by their Family

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**March 21**

8:00AM – Kathy Carneal  
req. by Leigh Rivera

11:30AM – Kenna Rose Fox  
req. by Dennis & Susan Orr

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$1,343.00 – Regular Collection – March 7, 2021**  
**\$ 309.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$1,571.00 – Regular Collection – March 8, 2020**  
**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

*Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.*

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**For On-Line Giving: log onto our website:  
saintjamesthomas.org Then go to On-Line Giving  
link.**

The 8:00am St. James Coffee Hour takes place the first Sunday of the month except for July, August and September. **Postponed until further notice.**

**St. James Altar & Floral Society** If any ladies in the parish are interested in joining, please call Joan Henn at 973-293-3690 or Linda Spinapolice at 973-293-7031.



**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*

**TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:**

T.J. Albert, Ellen Bilofsky, Agnes Ciesielski, Maria Colletti, Barbara Connolly, Joan Costa, Michael Eiring, Bill Fulton, Gerry Gacquin, Patricia Harrington, Erin Hockenberry, Bill & Teresa Mantini, Dolores Menzella, Joshua Murch, Richard Nowicki, Michael Paino, Deacon Joe Roder, Ginny Sabia, Brian Scarpone, Shirley Strong, Jen Vaughn, John Veres, Jr., Tarra Wagner, Casandra Westbrook and Ricky Wunder



We ask your continued prayers for the following men and women of our parish who are serving our country in the Armed Forces: Brandon Heimall, Mikey Heimall, Nicholas and Karissa Kealy, Ryan Kowal, Joseph Mannion, Hunter Olenick, Christopher & Ana Sarao, Nicole Sarao, Marissa Snook, Peter Spinks and James Orr.

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Carol A. Pierson at the  
Request of her Family

**MONDAY, March 15**

9:00AM – Intentions of Mike Toth  
req. by his Mom

**TUESDAY, March 16**

9:00AM – Deceased Nardo and Flexer Families  
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer  
-Intentions of Delia Lowrey  
For Healing  
req. by Prayer Shawl Ministry

**WEDNESDAY, March 17**

9:00AM – Bobby Sanchez  
req. by Flo, Cathy, Dona and Families

**THURSDAY, March 18**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, March 19**

9:00AM – Jaxon Butkus  
req. by Flo & Andy Puccio

**SATURDAY, Vigil, March 20**

4:30PM – Eugene & Rosalie Mauro  
req. by their Family

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**March 21**

9:30AM – Jozef Szwajkiewicz  
req. by John & Maria Babon  
-Dorothy Holly  
req. by Chris & Diane Sarao

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,487.00 – Regular Collection – March 7, 2021**  
**\$1,936.00 – Online Giving**  
**\$3,094.00 – Regular Collection – March 8, 2020**  
**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

*Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.*

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saintjamesthomas.org Then go to On-Line Giving  
link.**



### March/April Classes

Our on-site classes this month are as follows (unless changes need to be made):

**Grades 7 & 8 (Confirmation Prep)-Sun., March 21 & 28 – 9:30AM Mass – 12:30PM.**

**Grades 2 & 5 – Tues., March 23 & 30 – 4:00PM – 5:30PM**

**Grades 4 & 6 – Wed., March 24 & 31 – 4:00PM – 5:30PM**

**Grades 1 & 3 – Thurs., March 25 & April 1 – 4:00PM – 5:30PM.**

**\*For children in Grades 1 through 6 – every other week the next lesson will be taught at home.**



**The Confirmation II Retreat** – for Grade 8 will take place on **Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 9:10am and conclude at 3:30pm at the **Sanctuary of Mary, Our Lake of the Holy Spirit in Branchville.** Please keep our Candidates in your prayers!

### Confirmation Service Project – Adult sized Backpacks Needed for the Homeless

Two of our Confirmation candidates are collecting new or gently used adult backpacks for the homeless. They are helping the Ellen McGuire Foundation in their non-profit work. If you are able to assist them, please drop your backpacks off at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center or St. Thomas Church during working hours Monday – Friday from 8:30am – 2:30pm. Thank you.



Our youth and teens will once again be invited to participate in the diocesan **Operation Rice Bowl Lenten Program.** Through Operation Rice Bowl, they will learn about the challenges facing the lives of their brothers and sisters around the world, as well as in their own diocese. Your children were asked to bring their Rice Bowls home, keep them in a place where they can see them and contribute to the program, learning the values of sacrifice and generosity to those in need. Rice Bowls will then be returned after Easter.

### Feast of St. Joseph, the Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St. Joseph was the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. We honor him for the very important role he played in their lives, protecting and caring for them both.

Joseph and Mary were not yet married when Mary learned that she would become the mother of Jesus. An angel spoke to him in a dream and told him that this was possible by the Holy Spirit. Joseph believed the angel and married Mary.

Later, after Jesus was born, again, an angel spoke to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus to another land where they would be safe from King Herod. Once more, he believed the angel and took his family to Egypt for safety.

Joseph was visited by an angel one last time as the angel said it was now safe for him to bring his family home to Nazareth.

We can see that St. Joseph was a man of great faith. He always trusted in God and always obeyed Him. Although he was a very simple man, he is a model husband and father because of the great love he had for Mary and Jesus.

The stories of St. Joseph's life show us that a follower of God only has to listen and do God's will. We can do this simply by being a good brother or sister, or mother or father who loves and cares for our family too.

St. Joseph's feast is celebrated on March 19<sup>th</sup>, and he is the patron of the Church, fathers, families and carpenters. ***St. Joseph, on this very special year dedicated to you...pray for us and our families.***

(Note: As this is such a special Solemnity in the Church, the fasting regulations are lifted so enjoy some delicious St. Joseph pastries with your dinner tonight and don't forget to pray for your father!)

## *This Week in Our Parishes*

STC – St. Thomas Church or Fr. Lewis Center

SJC – St. James Church or Church Hall

REC – Fr. Gacquin Religious Ed Center

**Sunday, March 14, 2021**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent*

**Monday, Mar. 15**

7:00 p.m. SJC Confessions till 8:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Mar. 16**

**Wednesday, Mar. 17**

**Feast of Saint Patrick**

**Thursday, Mar. 18**

**Friday, Mar. 19**

**Feast of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary**

1:00 p.m. SJC & STC Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, Mar. 20**

9:15 a.m. Conf. II Retreat at Sanctuary of Mary  
(till 3:30 p.m.)

**Sunday, March 21, 2021**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent*

9:30 a.m. STC Conf. I and II Mass & Class

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next Sunday's Readings: 5<sup>th</sup> Lent**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: *Jeremiah 31: 31--34*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 51*

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: *Hebrews 5: 7--9*

Gospel: *John 12: 20--33*

\* \* \* \* \*

**FORMED.org:** Simply go to our parish website:  
[saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org). At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register (first time) or login (each time after).

**Suggestions from FORMED for Lent:**

St. Patrick's Day, March 17:

Watch: *St. Patrick: Pilgrimage to Peace*

Watch with Children: *Patrick: Brave Shepherd of the Emerald Isle*

St. Joseph's Day, March 19:

Watch: *Joseph of Nazareth*

## **An Evening of Taize Meditation and Song**

will be presented by our Parish Choir on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 7:30 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. at St. Thomas. It is an opportunity to relax in the Lord and to enter into deeper prayer during this Lenten Season.

## **Welcome Home for Lent, 2021.**

**In every Catholic Church of the Paterson Diocese**, doors will be open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation **each Monday in Lent, from 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.** With our situation, the schedule is as follows:

Mar. 15 St. James      Mar. 22 St. Thomas

Mar. 29 St. James

## **Stations of the Cross**

will be prayed at both our Churches this Lent. They will be held at a new time:

**1 p.m. each Friday afternoon. (not 7 p.m. in the evening).** This will accommodate those who do not like to drive at night. Make the Stations a part of your Lenten offerings to the Lord.

## **Dreaming of Summer Yet ?**

Camp Auxilium is now taking registrations for its Summer season 2021 ! Camp will be in progress June 28 -- July 30. It is open to **boys** from Grades K through 6 and **girls** from Grades K through 8. A wide range of activities and events are planned, all in a Catholic atmosphere guided by the Salesian Sisters. For more info or to register reach: [www.campauxilium.org](http://www.campauxilium.org)

## **Our Advertisers on the back page**

make our Bulletin possible, free of charge. When needing services, please consider these local business people. (And let them know you found them through our Bulletin.)

## **This Lent**

may we offer up our sacrifices for an end to the pandemic, for peace within our nation, and for a return to faith for all.

## **Prayer attributed to Saint Patrick:**

*Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in hearts of all who know me.  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger,  
Christ in quiet and in roar.*

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