

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

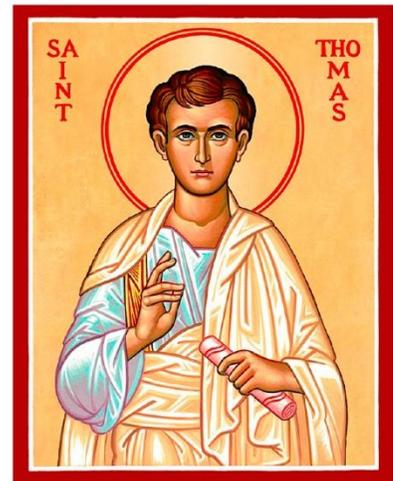
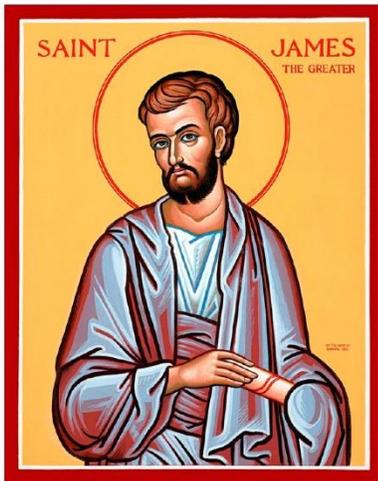
St. James the Greater

75 River Road
Montague, New Jersey



St. Thomas the Apostle

210 Route 206 North
Sandyston, New Jersey



Office for both parishes is located at
210 Route 206 North, Sandyston, NJ 07826
Parish Office ----- 973-948-2296
Fax ----- 973-948-4634
E-mail ----- stjamesthomas@aol.com
Website ----- saintjamesthomas.org
Rectory ----- 973-293-7582
Office Hours
Monday - Friday ----- 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Welcome

Father Wayne Varga, *Pastor*
Mr. Wayne von Doehren, *Deacon*
Mrs. Mary Flexer, *CRE*
Mrs. Patricia Hope, *Pastoral Associate*
Mrs. Rosemarie Briegel, *Parish Secretary*

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated during Mass providing that liturgical norms do not dictate otherwise. Please contact the office to schedule a Baptism and to make arrangements for preparations especially for first time parents. Baptisms may be scheduled at other times if extenuating conditions apply. Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Part of our ministry is to *visit the sick* in hospital or at home. Privacy laws do not allow us to visit or pray publicly for the sick unless permission is given by the individual or their health care proxy. Please inform us of the needs of the sick, and we will be happy to respond as best we can.

New parishioners are invited to fill out a registration form which can be found in the vestibule of the Church. Often when a Catholic is asked to be a Godparent for baptism or sponsor for Confirmation a letter from the pastor of their parish is requested. This can only be given to registered and active members of the parish.

MASS SCHEDULES

St. James

Sunday: 8:00 am & 11:30 am
Saturday: 8:00 am

St. Thomas

Saturday: 4:30 pm (*Vigil*)
Sunday: 9:30 am
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &
Friday: 9:00 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Thomas the Apostle

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:20 pm or by appointment

Pregnancy Assistance

Call 1-800-395-HELP or Tri-State
Pregnancy: 570-491-5151
Good Counsel: 1-800-723-8331
for pregnant mothers in need
anytime, anyplace.
www.goodcounselhomes.org

Post Abortion Healing

Project Rachel:
973-777-8818 ext. 272
Lumina:
Hope and Healing After Abortion,
1-877-LUMINA1 (877-586-4621)
www.postabortionhelp.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN (CCD)

Phone: 973-948-7004

Religious Education/Youth Office and classes are located at the Msgr. Gacquin Youth/Religious Education Center, 122 Layton-Hainesville Rd, Sandyston (*mail should be sent to parish office address listed above*)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

(September through April)

At St. Thomas the Apostle Church as part of the 9:30 am Mass.

Adoption Services

Adoption@CatholicCharities

The Schools of The Catholic Academy of Sussex County
973-729-6125 ext. 225

Rev. George A. Brown School
(Pre-K to Grade 4)

Pope John XXIII Middle School
(Grade 5 to 7)

Pope John XXIII High School
(Grade 8 to 12)



[Facebook/StJamesThomas](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesThomas)



Jesus' Miracles: Previews of Something Greater



Jesus “took the loaves and looking up to heaven, said the blessing, broke the loaves and gave them to His disciples ...” I hope that these words ring a bell for you. You hear something very similar at every Mass, at the time of Consecration.

Today’s Gospel passage about the feeding of the 5000 (not counting women and children, so maybe there were 10,000) is the only miracle that is recorded in all four Gospels. Matthew and Mark actually have it twice ! All four of the evangelists saw the direct connection between this particular miracle of the loaves—and the Last Supper account of the Eucharist. In God’s plan, today’s passage is meant to be a clear preview of that greatest miracle of all—Jesus changing the bread into His Body, and the wine into His Blood.

Today’s passage goes on to say that “all ate and were satisfied.” However Jesus did it, there was enough food to go around. In fact, *twelve baskets* of fragments were gathered up afterwards. Could this be a symbol of the New Israel: the Church ? The first Israel—of the Old Testament—was made up of the *twelve* tribes of Jacob. Jesus would found His Church upon the *twelve* apostles.

The bread which satisfied the crowd that day pointed toward the Bread of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. If the bread of that meal in the desert was able to fulfill their bodily needs for that day, the Bread of the Eucharist fulfills all our spiritual needs throughout our lives. The Lord is always there to offer His companionship in the Eucharist. And with His presence comes His wisdom, and courage, and optimism, and perseverance, and joy. To receive the Eucharist is to begin to experience—even here on earth—the beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. For what is heaven, but being with God. The Eucharist becomes the foretaste of heaven; it is often spoken of as “*the heavenly banquet.*”

As we receive Jesus in the Bread of the Eucharist, may we reflect upon the incredible honor we are given: to be at His table. May we look forward to enjoying the fullness of His presence at that banquet table in heaven.

God bless you,
Father Wayne

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 2, 2020

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Sister Pieta at the
Request of her Family

SATURDAY, August 8

8:00AM – Carol A. Pierson
req. by her Family

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 9

8:00AM – Janice Cerra
req. by Art & Maria Henn

11:30AM – Ray Sorg
req. by his friend, Rosemarie

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$ 526.00 – Regular Collection – July 26, 2020

\$ 356.00 – Online Giving

\$1,020.00 – Regular Collection – July 28, 2019

\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need

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

**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.

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 Spinapolic at 973-293-7031.



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, Joseph Mannion, Hunter Olenick, Christopher & Ana Sarao, Nicole Sarao, Peter Spinks and James Orr.



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*

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Linda J. Stephens at the
Request of her Friend

MONDAY, August 3

9:00AM – Kenny Burkhardt
req. by Bill & Marge Erickson

TUESDAY, August 4

9:00AM – Tom McNamara
req. by Jim & Diane Campbell

WEDNESDAY, August 5

9:00AM – Margaret & Joseph Devine
req. by the Rosanelli Family

THURSDAY, August 6

No Mass

FRIDAY, August 7

9:00AM – Kenny Burkhardt
req. by Russ & Ronnie Cole

SATURDAY, Vigil, August 8

4:30PM – Marie & John Furtado
req. by their Children

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 9

9:30AM – Ruth C. Belfiore
req. by Nicolina Conklin

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,248.00 – Regular Collection – July 26, 2020

\$1,052.00 – Online Giving

\$2,433.00 – Regular Collection – July 28, 2019

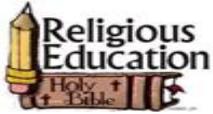
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need

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

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

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Agnes Ciesielski, Michael Eiring, Bill Fulton, Bill & Teresa Mantini, Joshua Murch, Richard Nowicki, Ginny Sabia, Shirley Strong, Jen Vaughn, Tarra Wagner, Casandra Westbrook and Ricky Wunder



Registrations for 2020/2021 Catechetical Year

As we try to prepare for the start of our Religious Education Sessions, you will soon be receiving information regarding our start up that, God willing, will begin in October. 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.



The Sacraments of Confirmation

It is with great joy that we also congratulate our teen parishioner, Lauren Cunico, who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on July 12th at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Stirling, where her Godfather, Father A. Richard Carton, is the Pastor.

May Lauren and all of our teens always know of our support and prayers for them as they witness to Jesus Christ throughout their lives.

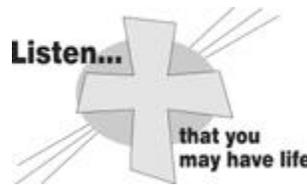


The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist

It is with great joy that we welcome the following children of our parishes to the Table of the Lord as they received the Sacred Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ for the very first time on Saturday, July 25th at the 11:00AM Mass at St. Thomas: Charlotte Adam, Kayden Carney, Natalie Gushea, Madelyn Lawrence, Hannah Lucadamo, Raya Pecoriello, Kyla Romano, Lia Sampson, Griffin Sansone and Hailey Tappen. We congratulate their Parents, Grandparents, Godparents and Catechists, Rita Straka and Marie Mendez, who have been so instrumental in bringing them to this very special day in their lives. May our children continue to grow in knowledge and love of Jesus and may they continue to receive Him lovingly and reverently all the days of their lives.

A Very Special Thank You

Thank you so very much to the Parents of the newly Confirmed teens and the children who just received their Holy Eucharist for their abundant generosity shown to Gina and Ricardo who selflessly offered to live stream and post to the parish YouTube Channel our recent celebration of these sacraments because their family and friends, due to the restrictions in place, could not be present. Gina and Riccardo were so grateful for your kindness and generosity. May God continue to bless your families for your goodness shown. For parishioners who would also like to view these Masses, they are posted on the YouTube Channel of the *Parishes of St. Thomas and St. James*



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 2, 2020

“Thus says the Lord: All you who are thirsty, come to the water. Come without paying and without cost... Heed me and you shall eat well. You who have no money, come receive grain and eat. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant.”

During the hot days of summer we are constantly looking for relief. A refreshing drink, a cool breeze, a pool or lake, a break from oppression and toil. Water is often the most welcome solution.

It was the water of baptism which gave us new life, and allowed us to live the covenant the Lord made with His people. Water was a constant in the bible from creation, the flood, the Red Sea, and even the side of Jesus on Calvary.

It is the water of grace which enables us to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. When we celebrate the sacraments, every time we receive the Eucharist, we are touched by God's saving grace. Maybe it is worth a minute to ask the Lord to help me appreciate the great gift He offers me constantly.

Remember this spring when the virus reminded us to wash our hands for twenty seconds? It was not only a precaution, but a remedy. May we “come to the water” and be renewed.

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, August 2
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, Aug. 3

Tuesday, Aug. 4

Wednesday, Aug. 5

Thursday, Aug. 6
Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Friday, Aug. 7

Saturday, Aug. 8

Sunday, August 9
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 a.m. STC R.C.I.A 1st Communions,
Confirmations

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Next Sunday's Readings: 19th Ord

1st Reading: *1 Kings 19: 9a, 11---13a*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 85*

2nd Reading: *Romans 9: 1—5*

Gospel: *Matthew 14: 22--33*

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On-Line Giving is easier than ever. Simply reach our parish website, saintjamesthomas.org. You will find the link to 'on-line giving.' Follow it through and it will easily set you up for weekly or monthly contributions. With our thanks.

We have just renewed our subscription to FORMED.org During this time of extended stay at home, it is an excellent way to grow in our faith. It can help you learn more about: the lives of the saints, doctrines, history, current issues of our faith. **Free to you as a parishioner**, and available through all devices. Includes movies, study series, and audio. Simply go to our parish website: saintjamesthomas.org. At the home page, scroll down to the FORMED banner to register.

The Transfiguration: what happened ? *This week we celebrate a special event in the life of our Lord. It is not a holy day of obligation, but it is a very important clue in understanding who Jesus is.*

About a week after Jesus plainly told His disciples that He would suffer, be killed, and then be raised to life again (Luke 9:22) He took Peter, James and John up a mountain to pray. While in prayer, His personal appearance was changed into a glorified form, and His clothing became dazzlingly white. Moses and Elijah, two important figures from the past, appeared and spoke with Jesus about His death in Jerusalem which would soon take place. They undoubtedly gave Jesus courage to follow through on the Father's plan for the salvation of the world—a plan that both Moses and Elijah had participated in—in their time.

They encouraged Jesus to go ahead and follow-through on His part of the mission, which was so close to completion.

For the three apostles present, this was undoubtedly a hint of Jesus' heavenly glory, and helped them to understand who Jesus truly was. When the time of His suffering and death on the cross came, this experience would hold the group of apostles together, and give them a glimmer of hope. This experience would carry them from Good Friday to Easter Sunday.

When John, in later years, composed His Gospel, he wrote: "*We have seen His glory, the glory of Father's only Son ...*" (John 1: 14). May we today heed the Father's words on that occasion of the Transfiguration: "*This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him.*"

The Original Red Cross. Imagine the sorrow that the mother of Saint Camillus de Lellis felt when she dreamt that her son would wear a red cross. It was the sign of a death sentence in 16th century Italy. Her dream came true, but not in the way she feared. After a colorful life, Camillus felt called to serve the sick, founding the Order of Clerks Regular, Ministers of the Infirm, better known as the Camillians. With cassocks marked with a large red cross, they helped wounded soldiers on the battlefield, saving countless lives and transforming the red cross into a sign of charity and service for sick people everywhere.

Suggestions for prayer: 1) for an end to the corona-virus crisis; 2) for an end to all the social unrest within our nation these days.