

# THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

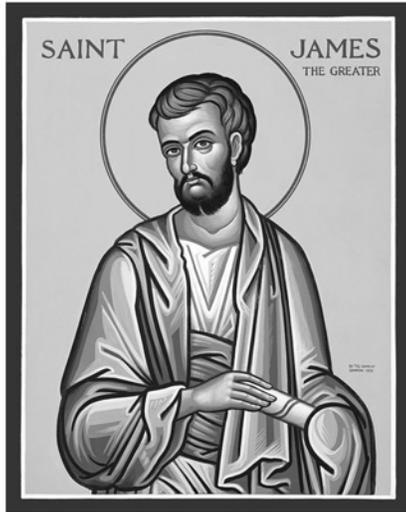
## St. James the Greater

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

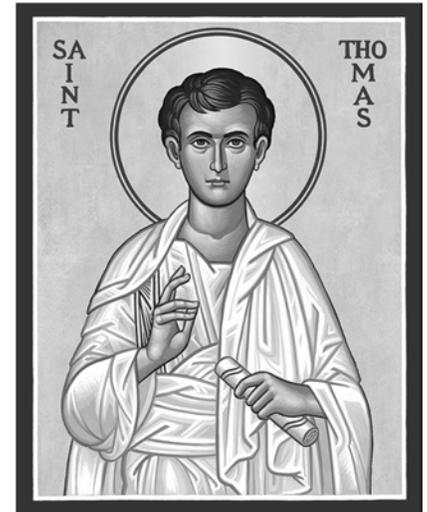
E-mail ----- stjamesthomas@aol.com

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. 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

*Excerpts from*  
***Pope Francis' Message for Lent 2021***



*Lent: a Time for Renewing Faith, Hope and Love*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus revealed to his disciples the deepest meaning of his mission when he told them of his passion, death and resurrection, in fulfilment of the Father's will. He then called the disciples to share in this mission for the salvation of the world.

In our Lenten journey towards Easter, let us remember the One who "humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:8). During this season of conversion, let us renew our *faith*, draw from the "living water" of *hope*, and receive with open hearts the *love* of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. At the Easter vigil, we will renew our baptismal promises and experience rebirth as new men and women by the working of the Holy Spirit. This Lenten journey, like the entire pilgrimage of the Christian life, is even now illumined by the light of the resurrection, which inspires the thoughts, attitudes and decisions of the followers of Christ.

*Faith calls us to accept the truth and testify to it before God and all our brothers and sisters.*

In this Lenten season, *accepting and living the truth revealed in Christ* means, first of all, opening our hearts to God's word, which the Church passes on from generation to generation. This truth is a message that all of us can receive and understand. Christ himself is this truth. By taking on our humanity, even to its very limits, he has made himself the way – demanding, yet open to all – that leads to the fullness of life.

*Lent is a time for believing*, for welcoming God into our lives and allowing him to "make his dwelling" among us (cf. Jn 14:23). Fasting involves being freed from all that weighs us down – like consumerism or an excess of information, whether true or false – in order to open the doors of our hearts to the One who comes to us, poor in all things, yet "full of grace and truth" (Jn 1:14): the Son of God, our Savior.

*In these times of trouble*, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope. Yet Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation. Paul urges us to place our hope in reconciliation: "Be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20).

In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn. In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid the general indifference around us.

*Through recollection and silent prayer*, hope is given to us as inspiration and interior light, illuminating the challenges and choices we face in our mission. Hence the need to pray (cf. Mt 6:6) and, in secret, to encounter the Father of tender love. *To experience Lent in hope* entails growing in the realization that, in Jesus Christ, we are witnesses of new times, in which God is "making all things new" Rev 21: 1—6.

*Love, following in the footsteps of Christ, in concern and compassion for all, is the highest expression of our faith and hope. Love rejoices in seeing others grow.* Hence it suffers when others are anguished, lonely, sick, homeless, despised or in need. Love is a leap of the heart; it brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion.

*Love is a gift* that gives meaning to our lives. It enables us to view those in need as members of our own family, as friends, brothers or sisters. A small amount, if given with love, never ends, but becomes a source of life and happiness.

Dear brothers and sisters, every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.

May Mary, Mother of the Savior, ever faithful at the foot of the cross and in the heart of the Church, sustain us with her loving presence. May the blessing of the risen Lord accompany all of us on our journey towards the light of Easter.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**February 21, 2021**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Tillie Preate at the  
Request of her Family

**SATURDAY, February 27**

8:00AM – Marge Gibbons  
req. by her Family

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**February 28**

8:00AM – Phyllis Halback  
req. by her Family

11:30AM – Barbara Gioielli  
req. by her Family

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$ 430.00 – Regular Collection – February 14, 2021**

**\$ 334.00 – Online Giving**

**\$ 817.00 – Regular Collection – February 16, 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 Spinapolic 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, Agnes Ciesielski, Barbara Connolly, Michael Eiring, Bill Fulton, Gerry Gacquin, Patricia Harrington, Erin Hockenberry, Bill & Teresa Mantini, Dolores Menzella, Joshua Murch, Richard Nowicki, Deacon Joe Roder, Ginny Sabia, Brian Scarpone, Shirley Strong, Jen Vaughn, 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 Mary Campbell at the  
Request of her Children

**MONDAY, February 22**

9:00AM – Special Intention  
-Frank Kelly  
req. by Jim & Diane Campbell

**TUESDAY, February 23**

9:00AM – Deceased Sweeney & Barr Families  
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer  
-Intentions of Lawrence P. Gioielli  
Birthday Celebration  
req. by his Family

**WEDNESDAY, February 24**

9:00AM – Eleanor Lehman-McCann  
req. by Ray & Mary Flexer and the Barr Family  
-Intentions of Laura A. Pullis  
Birthday Celebration  
req. by her Aunt Rosie

**THURSDAY, February 25**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, February 26**

9:00AM – Marge & Larry LaRusso  
req. by their Family

**SATURDAY, Vigil, February 27**

4:30PM – Mary Gibbons  
req. by her Family

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**February 28**

9:30AM – Annmarie Walsh  
req. by Frances Demalderis

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,542.00 – Regular Collection – February 14, 2021**

**\$1,096.00 – Online Giving**

**\$3,024.00 – Regular Collection – February 16, 2020**

**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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



### February Classes

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

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

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

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

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

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



As we enter the first week of Lent, we do so knowing that this is a very holy season. Lent is especially a time devoted to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is also a time of making sacrifices.

Spend some time today, the First Sunday of Lent, and come up with a Lenten plan for your family. Most importantly, schedule some time for Family Prayer. Maybe learn a few new prayers now (some can be found towards the back of your religious education books). Perhaps you will devote Fridays to the Stations of the Cross (at church or at home) or your family will pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. Continue to attend Mass or participate (yes, praying, standing, sitting and kneeling) from home. Talk about some of the things you may give up (sacrifice) during these next weeks. Maybe some of the money that may have been spent on the things you will give up can be donated to those in need. Also, look for the many, many opportunities to grow in your faith through technology! Follow our parishes Facebook page and Website for the various articles and information available there. Go to FORMED.org for all the wonderful viewings available to every member of the family. There are also so many awesome things on You Tube and EWTN for your family to grow in faith. Remember, all these things are a way to grow closer to Jesus and His Church! Blessed and Holy Lent.

(Did you know that the word Lent means springtime? We really need some of that right now!!!)



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly  
*Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ*

### **First Sunday of Lent February 21, 2021**

**“Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit... It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience...”**

We are so familiar with St. Peter – chosen by Jesus, leader of the apostles, sometimes speaking out of turn, human, repentant not unlike ourselves.

Yet, are we familiar with the two letters he wrote, which are part of the bible? Some say they were his teaching for the new Christians, like the homily we hear at mass.

How simply, yet beautifully, he reminds us today that the suffering and death of Jesus was for me, the unrighteous, the unjust person.

## ***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, February 21**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

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

**Monday, Feb. 22**

**Tuesday, Feb. 23**

4:00 p.m. REC Rel. Ed. Gr. 2 & 5

**Wednesday, Feb. 24**

4:00 p.m. REC Rel. Ed. Gr. 4 & 6

**Thursday, Feb. 25**

4:00 p.m. REC Rel. Ed. Gr. 1 & 3

**Friday, Feb. 26**

**Saturday, Feb. 27**

**Sunday, February 28, 2021**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next Sunday's Readings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lent**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: *Genesis 22: 1--2, 9--18*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalms 116*

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: *Romans 8: 31b--34*

Gospel: *Mark 9: 2--10*

\* \* \* \* \*

**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:**

Listen: *My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent*

--by Bishop Robert Barron (author of *Catholicism*)

Listen: [\*The Healing Power of Confession\*](#)

**On-Line Giving:** [Frees up your time by setting up donations to Church once and for all.](#) Simply reach our website: [saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org), then scroll down to the green "On Line" link and learn more. With our thanks.

**Make These Forty Days Count.** The entire Church joins together in this yearly project to grow closer to the Lord and to become more perfect in His sight. Pope Francis gives us encouragement as he tells us: *"...every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping, and loving."* How much more so, during Lent.

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

**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, we will alternate churches, beginning with **St. Thomas this Mon. Feb. 22.** The full schedule is as follows:

Feb. 22 St. Thomas Mar. 1 St. James

Mar. 8 St. Thomas 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 **7 p.m. each Friday evening.** Make the Stations a part of your Lenten offerings to the Lord.

**Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle, Feb. 22.** No, it's not a piece of antique furniture that we celebrate on this day. It is the Office that St. Peter, and all his successors, have held since the beginnings of the Church. Jesus told Peter: *"You are Rock, and on this Rock I will build my Church."* It was to St. Peter, and to all who have taken up his role as center of the Church, that Jesus had entrusted His whole life's mission. And the Church, under the leadership of its popes, has continued for 2000 years. No other nation or empire has survived nearly as long. And we know that the Church will continue to the end of time.

It is not because of the wisdom of the popes however, but the wisdom and protection and guidance of the Holy Spirit that assures us Jesus' work will continue. Pray for our current Pope Francis, and for all Bishops and leaders of our Church, that they may always have the wisdom to look to the Holy Spirit for the guidance of our Church into the future.

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